CUC decision in water dispute adverse to judge's family. PAGE 2
Bill seeks to make officials' financial statements public. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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No CHC nurses selected in lottery

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Stung by reports that no nurses or any of its ancillary staff were selected in the CW-1 lottery of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wishes that USCIS would prioritize CNMI healthcare professional workers who are under the CW1 visa classification. CHCC made the appeal after receiving word that only 19 employees or 10 petitions that they filed had their checks cleared.

» **CHCC to USCIS: Prioritize CW1 health workers**

In a statement responding to *Saipan Tribune* queries yesterday, CHCC public information officer Sami Birmingham-Babauta said their human resources department has been working to transition CW1 nurses to other U.S.-applicable work visas.

See CHC on Page 4

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services technicians try to secure the 63-year-old driver of a Toyota Corolla that was struck by a Department of Public Safety's Chevy Tahoe at the Sadog Tasi traffic light intersection yesterday afternoon. The driver and his female passenger were hurt.

DFEMS

Police SUV hits car in Sadog Tasi; 2 hurt

» **DPS vehicles involved in 3 crashes in less than 2 months**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two civilians were hurt when a police vehicle hit their car at the intersection of Isa Drive and Chalan Pale Arnold Highway in Sadog Tasi near the Mobil gas station yesterday

See CAR on Page 4

Yet another gas price hike

Mobil gas stations have raised their gas prices by 20 cents and Shell gas stations are expected to follow shortly.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Saipan has been hit with yet another gas price increase, just three months after the last price increase.

According to Mobil's main office on Saipan, they were informed around 10am yesterday morning to increase their gas prices by 20 cents.

Mobil's main office is not informed in advance as to

See GAS on Page 4

IN APARTMENT RENT DISPUTE

Man allegedly bites another man

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury trial began yesterday in the case of a man who is accused of biting another man in the hand and hitting him with a chair during a dispute over apartment rent in San Antonio.

Both the prosecution and the defense gave opening statements in the case against Jiang Hong Sheng yesterday,

See MAN on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA
Taiwan builds up its domestic defense industry in the face of China's warnings.
PAGE 15

WORLD
Israel kicks off festivities to celebrate the opening of the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.
PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
Rihanna returns to the scene of the crime when she attended this week's glitzy Met Gala.
PAGE 19

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CUC decision in water dispute adverse to judge's family

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said there is a potential appearance of his bias against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. due to his family's water billing dispute with CUC.

In his written recusal order last week, Govendo said he does not want to sit in judgment now that CUC counsel James S. Sirok has just brought the billing dispute to his attention.

Govendo recused himself from the lawsuit filed by Conrad M. Sablan pursuant to the Code of Judicial Conduct from the Commonwealth Judiciary under Canon 3(c)(a), which mandates that "a judge disqualify himself in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

Sablan is suing CUC and the CNMI government for allegedly putting up a water tank and fences on his land in Rafugao without compensating him.

At the scheduled bench trial in Sablan's case last Wednesday, Sirok informed Govendo during a closed hearing that he had just learned of the billing dispute between the judge's family and CUC.

Sirok also requested the recusal based on the statements that Govendo made in his order denying the CNMI government's motion for summary judgment, which, in turn, have been reported in local newspapers.

In granting the motion for his recusal, Govendo said the billing dispute was years old and filed under his wife's name.

Govendo said Sirok informed him that CUC had reached a decision adverse to his (Govendo) family regarding the dispute.

With Govendo's recusal, the scheduled bench trial did not push through. The case was transferred to Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, who will designate a new judge for the case.

Sirok also cited that Govendo personally became involved in a billing dispute with CUC, which is ongoing.

Saipan Tribune published that day, Wednesday, Govendo's statement in the summary judgment issue in which he stated that CUC's careless disregard for landowners' rights "is shocking and offends the rights of Northern Marianas people."

Govendo stated that the CNMI has made a habit of taking land from people and attempting to refuse to pay these people just compensation.

In some areas, the judge said, the CNMI "simply stalls for years, dragging its feet before paying it."

Sablan, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, is suing CUC for trespassing and against CUC and the CNMI for taking his property without just compensation.

Sablan found out in 2013 that CUC had built a water tank, commonly referred to as the Maui IV Water Tank, on his land. The tank was built in March 1992.

Sablan further discovered that CUC also built wire fences that prevent him from being able to access his other property in the same area.

KCHC RE-OPENS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, eighth from left, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), 10th from left, join officials and staff of the Kagman Community Health Center led by board chair Velma Palacios, seventh from left, and chief executive officer Vince Castro, second from left, in touring the facility last Saturday.

JON PEREZ

19th Annual Sophia Walk on June 23

Registration is now open for the 19th Annual Sophia Walk that will take place on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Registration will be ongoing until June 23 at 6:30am while the walk begins at 7am.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, the acronym SOPHIA also represents "Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure."

Incorporating a new route for year 19, the course starts at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which happens to be the main sponsor and organizer.

Participants will walk/run from the Fiesta beach north toward Micro Beach, joining the footpath toward Smiling Cove and up to the top of the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and back. The course measures approximately 6 kilometers and will offer participants a raffle, refreshments plus an award for the "best hat."

All proceeds from the event will benefit the CHCC Volunteers Association.

Early registration is $10 per person (ages 4 and over) on or before June 22 and increases to $15 per person on race day.

The first 500 participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, donated by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Participants may register at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Century Hotel, and iShop. Registration forms can also be picked up at CHCC gift shop. Checks can be payable to CHCC Volunteers Association.

For more information, email sophiawalksaipan@gmail.com or call Fiesta Resort at 234-6412. ***(PR)***

This ad is paid for by the Committee to Elect Joseph Arriola Flores.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Meeting for farmers/ producers

There will be a farmers/producers meeting today, May 15, at 9am at the Kagman Agriculture Station to discuss the upcoming 31st Agriculture Fair. All farmers and producers who wish to participate in the fair must register their names and plants/animals to display. Also, farmers will be asked to select amongst themselves who will participate in the Agriculture Fair Committee. They will be selecting officers for president, vice president, and secretary/ treasurer. ***(PR)***

Memorial Day proclamation signing

The Office of the Governor's CNMI Military Veterans Affairs Office would like to invite all military members, families, and the public to a proclamation signing on May 21, 2018, at 9am, at the Office of the Governor conference room for the celebration of Memorial Week on May 21 – 28 and Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, 2018, 9am at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi. ***(PR)***

Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018, starting at 5:30pm in the ChaCha Oceanview Middle School cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 for more information. ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) until May 16, from 9am to 10pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. ***(PR)***

CAO community report meetings set

The Carolinian Affairs Office is holding a community report meeting on May 16 at the Kagman Youth Center. The CAO is asking members of the Refaluwasch community to attend the meeting. Contact the CAO at (670)234-6385 with any questions or concerns about the meetings. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018. The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018. Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Environmental Champion Award, Environmental Heroes Award, Green Business of the Year. Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***

Bill seeks to make officials' financial statements public

By ERWIN ENCINARES
Erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bill introduced in the House of Representatives on Friday seeks to make public the financial statements of those who occupy public office in the Commonwealth, much like most local legislatures across the United States.

Introduced by Rep. Ed K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and cosponsored by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), House Bill 20-166 requires public officials to file financial statements with the Office of the Public Auditor on or before May 1 every year.

On the first year of the enactment of the bill, public officials are required to file the statements on or before Aug. 1.

The bill also requires officials to file a written felony conviction report within 30 days of conviction of a felony in court or within 30 days of the bill's enactment, regardless of whether an appeal may or has been filed and regardless of whether the case has been sealed.

The bill also requires candidates who are not officials to file with the OPA on the date they file a petition for candidacy a "written report containing the financial information required," including that of the previous calendar year.

Public officials already in office are also required to submit a felony report, when applicable.

H.B. 20-166 indicates that the financial report submitted to the OPA by a candidate or an official should include their gross income and of his or her spouse and dependent children. It shall also include the names and addresses of all persons and organizations who have donated or paid any honoraria or compensation for services, including fees, commissions, salaries, and similar items, including their amounts.

According to the bill's findings and purpose, the practice of making public all financial statements of persons in public office is no stranger to other states and territories.

"Financial disclosure laws are required of public officials because they enable the public to evaluate potential conflicts of interests, deter corruption, and increase public confidence in government," bill findings states.

Besides public officials and public office-seeking candidates, the bill includes appointees or members of boards and commissions; however, it is not as thorough as those seeking public office and public officials.

All appointees to boards and commissions of the government, according to the bill, should submit a financial report containing only information where conflicts of interest or possible conflicts of interest exist during their tenure of service on the board or commission to which they are being appointed.

The report shall also include the appointee's or members' place of employment, any entity in which the appointee or member serves as a director or consultant to and any entity to which the appointee or member or family member of the appointee or member owns an interest of 5 percent or more in.

Propst's bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, chaired by Blanco.

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Measure to increase maximum penalty vs casino is approved

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A measure that would increase the maximum penalty the Commonwealth Casino Commission could impose unanimously passed the House of Representatives last Friday.

Rep. Ed K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 20-50 garnered unanimous support last Friday.

The bill bumps up the maximum penalty the commission could impose on the casino licensee from $50,000 to $800,000. Propst's initial proposal would have raised the penalty to $5 million. The amendment was made in the House Gaming Committee, led by Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) as its chairman.

In a previous letter from the Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, he described the proposed $5 million maximum penalty as excessive.

"We reviewed the casino jurisdictions of New Jersey, Nevada, and Macau as they hold heavy relevance to current regulations set forth by our commission. They are also viewed as internationally recognized casino regulatory and gaming standards," Deleon Guerrero said in his comment on the bill.

The bill left the House for the Senate unopposed, 20-0.

Bill widens MVA duties

A bill that widens the duties and responsibilities of the Marianas Visitors Authority now heads to the Senate after the House passed it Friday.

Authored by Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), House Bill 20-154 seeks to widen MVA responsibilities to include defining, launching, and maintaining projects and programs that enhance the CNMI as a destination; developing, constructing, improving, and maintaining tourist sites and other facilities that will attract visitors; and issuing grants for projects and programs to increase visitor satisfaction.

The bill slid through the House without amendments from the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, which is also chaired by Guerrero.

The bill passed the House on a vote of 20-0.

Marchadesch, Camacho are 'Taste' champs

The second night of the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday was highlighted by a barbecue cook-off competition won by the team of Spencer Marchadesch and Joel Camacho.

Six pairs went head-to-head in the battle to win the bragging rights to Taste's best barbecue.

The bragging rights, a brand new Samsung S7 with a three-month plan from IT&E, and a $300 gift certificate redeemable at any Joeten store was awarded to Marchadesch and Camacho.

According to Camacho, he was only informed of the competition three days before the cook-off and he immediately decided to team up with his cousin, Marchadesch, who dominated the same competition at the 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

"He [Marchadesch] is a genius as a cook," said Camacho.

Camacho said that Marchadesch came up with the idea to represent Taste of the Marianas by incorporating local taste into their winning sauce. The concoction consisted of carabao mangoes, locally grown soursop, and Saipan Brewing beer.

"Both the sugar and the acidity…ended up working well together and the mixture was great…the beer was also Saipan-made," he said.

Last year, Marchadesch wowed the judges with his sauce that consisted of mainly local mangoes.

In second place was team Mama's Love, and completing the top three was team Sugar and Spice. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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$7M for Guma Hustisia 'boggles my mind'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the House in their session last Friday passed spending measures addressing $7 million in mold remediation and brand new air-conditioning units for the Judiciary's Guma Hustisia, a lawmaker still skeptical about the large amount allocated for the project.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said he supports appropriating funding for brand new air-conditioning units as well as the mold remediation for the Guma Hustisia but he still has doubts about the $7 million amount.

The House passed last Friday with a vote of 19-1 Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-165, which appropriates $7 million to the Judiciary and $1.3 million to the private telecommunications company, Docomo Pacific.

Propst

Propst is concerned about the $7 million the Judiciary is asking for the project, saying it "seems extremely high" when other private businesses have installed new air-conditioning systems in businesses that are "much larger and have far more square footage."

"There are two businesses on Saipan that spent well under $1 million for new, energy-efficient air-conditioning systems and they are almost double the square footage of Guma Hustisia," said Propst.

In a previous interview with Demapan, he said the amount is based on a cost breakdown provided by an engineering firm that won the bidding when the Judiciary solicited proposal to do the assessment in late 2017.

"We are also [looking at] the cost breakdown provided by the Judiciary on what it would take to [complete] the project while keeping the Judiciary open in other locations," he said.

"…To the question of whether the $7 million was exorbitant—that is something we will finally see when the court is able to address the mold remediation and air-conditioning units. That is why, as the author of this bill, I made sure that the expenditure authority of the $7 million rests with the secretary of Finance," Demapan added.

Demapan further stated that the Finance secretary could make sure the funds would be used for the stated purposes only.

"I feel that is a safety net we were able to include in the provision instead of handing over the money outright," said Demapan.

Delta pullout no hindrance to Nenpou Shinkyou pilgrimage

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The recent pullout of Delta Air Lines from flying between Saipan and Narita did not faze members of the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination, which holds a regular pilgrimage to the CNMI.

Nenpou Shinkyou has made the pilgrimage to the Northern Marianas for 12 years now but this year's pilgrimage was a bit more complicated.

Due to the lack of a direct flight, the group of 50 who made the pilgrimage to the Commonwealth for the 12th Annual Peace Memorial Ceremony had to first fly from Japan, to Incheon, to Guam, and then to the CNMI. This was not only more time-consuming, but costly as well.

According to Nenpou Shinkyou high priest and president Ryohan Ichimiya, although there is no longer a direct flight from Japan to Saipan and the voyage is far longer, the group will still continue the pilgrimage and the Peace Memorial Ceremony to honor the relationship between the Commonwealth and Japan, pray for world peace, and to pray for the local and Japanese civilians who lost their lives during World War II.

Ichimiya said the denomination would continue to send no less than 50 participants or more every year on the pilgrimage, with or without a direct flight.

There were about 50 Nenpou Shinkyou representatives from the Osaka and Kyushu districts who made the pilgrimage and participated in the ceremony last Sunday—about 10 more than last year.

According to the remarks of Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist priest Ihada Ryodo, the memorial will continue.

The ceremony was established in honor of fallen Japanese soldiers and civilians who lost their lives during World War II.

The ceremony was first established by the Nenpou Shinkyou Buddhist Denomination in 2007 and has been an annual event since then.

The group also conducted a cleanup on Saturday, a day before the Peace Memorial Ceremony, in support of the beautification of the CNMI.

The event took place at the Japanese Memorial located at the Last Command Post in Marpi and was then moved to the Nenpou Shinkyou Peace Memorial at Banzai Cliff.

GAS

From Page 1

any changes made to the gas prices.

As of yesterday, the price increase boosted the price of Mobil's Extra fuel from $4.23 per gallon to $4.43 per gallon, while Mobil's Supreme fuel went up from $4.60 to $4.80 a litter.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, gas prices were at $3.48 in early 2016 and continued to increase until it reached $3.93 in December 2016. A decrease of 10 cents was seen in June of 2017 before it increased by 10 cents again in October 2017.

A 13-cent increase was implemented on Jan. 8, 2018, raising gas prices from $3.95 to $4.08 per gallon and was raised just one month later by 15 cents on Feb. 5 from $4.08 to $4.23 per gallon.

Shell has yet to raise their gas prices but it is believed by Shell employees that they will follow suit shortly.

Gas prices have been going up nationwide since President Trump pulled the United States out of a deal with Iran, one of the world's largest oil producers. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

CAR

From Page 1

afternoon.

The car's driver, a 63-year-old man, and his passenger, a 53-year-old woman, were brought by medics to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The driver complained of pain on his left side, while his passenger had pain on her left leg, according to Derek Gersonde, spokesman of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The driver and passenger of the Department of Public Safety's Chevy Tahoe refused to be treated, Gersonde said.

DFEMS received a call from DPS 911 about the auto collision at the Sadog Tasi traffic light intersection at 2:01pm.

When DFEMS personnel arrived at the scene at 2:09pm, they came upon the DPS Chevy Tahoe and a red Toyota Corolla.

Gersonde said that, according to the driver of the Toyota Corolla, he was making a U-turn when the police vehicle hit their car on the front driver's side.

Gersonde referred *Saipan Tribune* to the DPS public information officer for information as to the cause of the accident.

As of press time last night, DPS information officer Jacqueline Shepard has yet to provide information about the crash.

Last April 16, a car reportedly drifted into the opposite lane of the road and collided with a police patrol car in As Perdido.

The driver of the four-door Toyota Corolla was taken to CHC for minor injuries. He was released after being treated. He was given a traffic citation for the accident. The male police officer, who was the driver of the patrol car, was not injured.

Both vehicles had extensive damage on the front and front right side.

Last March 24, a Tagaman competitor from Japan was injured when his bicycle reportedly struck a car that collided with a police motorcycle at the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Hagoi near Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The driver of the car was cited for failing to yield to an emergency vehicle, according to DPS.

The police officer and the vehicle's passengers were not injured in the crash.

Meanwhile, DFEMS firefighters forcibly opened an elevator's door at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Building in Gualo Rai to rescue two persons who were stranded inside the elevator yesterday at noon.

Firefighters used extrication tools to open the elevator's door and free the two passengers.

The passengers were not injured, according to DFEMS.

DFEMS received the DPS 911 call at 12:25pm about two persons stuck in the BECQ building elevator.

The report did not mention how long the two passengers were stranded inside the elevator.

CHC

From Page 1

"When granting CW-1 permits, [healthcare professional workers] should be prioritized as a critical need to the Commonwealth and the community," she said.

Birmingham-Babauta added that they are trying to obtain EB-2 visas for CW1 nurses who possess Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools certifications and have five years of experience in specialty areas that they gained working outside of CHCC.

CHCC has filed nine EB2 petitions last year and five where approved while another three where issued request for evidence. The ninth petition that they filed is still awaiting USCIS action.

Birmingham-Babauta said CHCC recognizes the urgent need to build the capacity of local healthcare professional workers and is working to achieve this by improving the nurses' pay scale, implementing a graduate nursing program, and supporting Senate Bill 20-71 SD1. SB 20-71, introduced by Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), would establish a Nursing School Professional Scholarship.

"It is the intent and hope that the [NSPS] will incentivize and encourage students to enter the field and, as a recipient of the scholarship, require time at our sole hospital," said Birmingham-Babauta.

"The pay scale for nurses has been improved to offer competitive salaries and encourage nursing graduates both locally and abroad to choose employment with CHCC," she said. The hospital's graduate nursing program enables nurses to be hired and gain experience while they are studying for their National Council Licensure Examination. "This program has been extended to all GN's with an associate in science in nursing from [the Northern Marianas College], whereas it was originally for GN's a year or less post-graduation," said Birmingham-Babauta.

"Additionally, CHCC covers the participating GN's studying materials and exam fees in exchange for signing a contract with CHCC upon successful completion of the nursing exam." Despite these efforts, there's still limited local capacity. "Any loss to our [healthcare professional workers] will severely hinder CHCC's ability to provide services. CHCC is pursuing other solutions to avoid disruption of critical health services."

MAN

From Page 1

soon after Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo impaneled seven jurors

Sheng, 30, also known as Jacky, is on trial for assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Assistant attorney general Robert "Charlie" Lee is expected to call his first witness today, Tuesday, at 9am. Assistant attorney general Frances T. Demapan is assisting Lee in the trial.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski is counsel for Sheng.

The trial is being held at the District Court courtroom because the House of Justice building remains closed to the public because of air-conditioning and mold problems.

According to the government, Sheng assaulted Ye Fang with a knife and bit Fang's hand on June 6, 2017.

Sheng also allegedly hit Fang on the head with a chair, and threatened to kill and/or hurt Fang and his family.

The attack allegedly prompted Fang's wife to run outside and yell for help.

Sheng pleaded not guilty.

Fang has filed a separate civil case against Sheng for battery, assault, and intentional infliction of emotional distress over the same incident.

According to the complaint, Fang rents an apartment from Sheng in San Antonio.

Fang lent Sheng $7,150 for a real estate investment.

Last June 6, Sheng messaged Fang that he was going to come over to Fang's house to pay back the remaining balance due on the loan.

At Fang's house, the two got into an argument because Sheng allegedly told Fang that he doesn't want him to pay off the loan balance until Fang had moved out of the apartment building.

The argument escalated and that Sheng suddenly grabbed Fang's hand and bit it. Sheng then allegedly beat up Fang and attacked him with a knife and chair.

CCC: Clarify room numbers in Garapan facility

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is asking Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC how many rooms its initial gaming facility in Garapan will have since it would affect their manpower and staffing issue.

Public Law 18-56, which allowed casino gaming on Saipan, requires the investor to build 2,000 new hotel rooms and invest $2 billion. IPI's multibillion dollar project is in three stages, starting with the initial gaming facility in Garapan.

"Phase I and Phase II have yet to occur. Phase I is up north and Phase II is somewhere on the island," said CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero last Friday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

He said the Garapan facility at first could hold 373 rooms. "But zoning issues and the license agreement specified a reduction of 250 rooms."

"In the same amendment No. 5, there's a reference to 329 rooms. What we're saying to them is that, if they do request an for extension, to clarify how many rooms the facility actually would have."

Labor issues and lack of manpower would impact not only in completing the facility but also when they begin operating it, Deleon Guerrero said. "It would also affect the length of time they are requesting for extension."

He said that's why CCC requires various departments of IPI, especially those involved in the construction of the facility, to report on the status and progress of the project. "And we've seen progress with [IPI new contractor], Pacific Rim."

IPI, based on the extension that was granted to them last year, is required to finish building 329 hotel rooms by August 2018. Deleon Guerrero concedes that that would be impossible now and they expect IPI to submit another request for extension.

"It is humanly impossible to finish it by August 2018 since August is just around the corner. We have not seen or received the request for extension, but they said they are working on it. I believe, their request would be valid," said Deleon Guerrero.

"We know that there were circumstances that did not allow them access to additional manpower to finish the construction of the facility."

Pacific Rim's initial involvement in the project is to assess the status of the construction phase and how much time it would need to complete the entire resort.

He added that Pacific Rim has just finished with their analysis and has prepared their report that would be submitted to the Office of the Governor and the CNMI Lottery Commission for a possible extension beyond 2018.

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16th Marianas March Against Cancer

Photos by KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

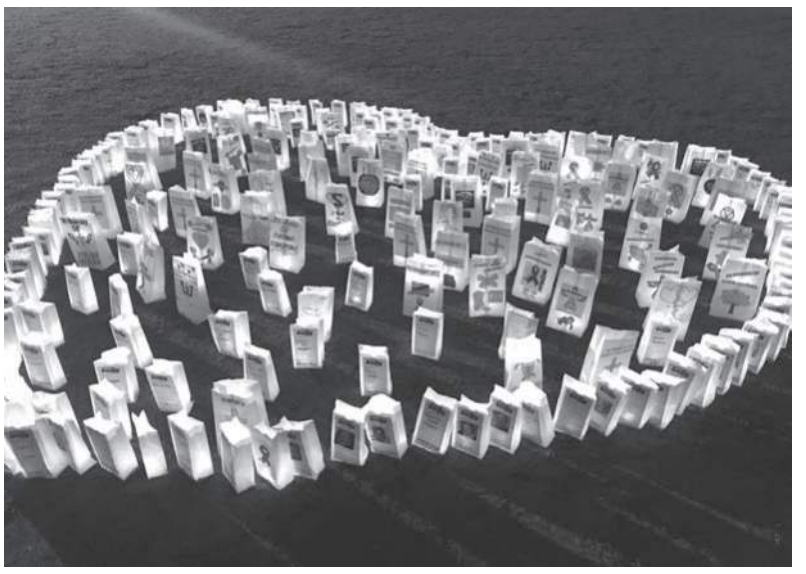
Marianas March Against Cancer co-chairs Carline Sablan and Bobby Cruz.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gives a speech at the start of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Commonwealth Cancer Association board chair Bo Palacios.

Cancer survivors are honored at the start of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Medallions are given to cancer survivors.



Luminaries are lit during the luminary lighting ceremony

Dignitaries witness the signing of House Bill 20-58.

Dignitaries pose for a photo at the start of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Luminaries are lit during the luminary lighting ceremony at the start of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation and the Northern Marianas College wins Most Money Raised in the Tanu category.

Team TanHoldings and Kagman High School are awarded the Rising Star award at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

All 20 teams are presented appreciation plaques at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Team CNMI PSS and Saipan Paddle Club are awarded the Rookies of the Year award at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Team Talaabwogh Star is awarded the Inspirational Spirit award at the end of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Team Fa'ye is awarded for selling the most number of luminaries.

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation and the Northern Marianas College wins Best Tent at the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Mount Carmel School is awarded Most Money Raised award in the Napu category.

Team Bodig is awarded multiple awards at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Marianas Health Services takes home the Most Laps award at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

Team IT&E is awarded the Best Baton award at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

The Northern Marianas Islands Football Association is awarded Most Money Raised in the Atdao category.

Team Triple J is awarded during the Marianas March Against Cancer awarding ceremony at the conclusion of the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.

VFW REACHES OUT TO TINIAN VETERANS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On May 11, 2018, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 on Saipan reached out to their fellow veterans on Tinian for the first time. The VFW members donated service flags, flags of each military branch, buddy poppies, and a special award for the Tinian Junior/Senior High School JROTC. The buddy poppies that are made by disabled veterans nationwide are worn during Memorial Day to honor the fallen. The VFW is a non-profit organization that provides assistance and support to service members, veterans and their families. Present to receive the donations on behalf of the Tinian veterans were Tania Marie Mendiola, CNMI Military/ Veterans Affairs administrative assistant, and Capt. Joseph A. Santos, TJSHS JROTC instructor, who is a veteran himself.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. January 31, 2018 Special Board Meeting
   b. March 14, 2018 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. CIP
   b. FPA
   c. ISA
   d. LIA
   e. SICPP
   f. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Audit for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
2. Head Start Programs:
   a. 2018 Early Head Start Budget Revision
   b. 2018 Head Start Budget Revision
3. School Calendars for SY 2018-2019:
   a. Early Head Start
   b. Head Start Full Day
   c. Head Start Double Session
   d. Early Intervention
   e. K-12 Grades
4. Year 2 Consolidated Grant for SY 2018-2019
5. Breakfast and Lunch School Menus for SY 2018-2019
6. Project Aware (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)
7. Model Code of Ethics for Educators
8. CCLHS Mastery List
9. William S. Reyes Elementary School Drop-Off Overhang Project
10. Certification and Licensure Matters
    a. CLO Report 2018-004
    b. CLO Report 2018-005

VI. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Radio talk show host runs for public office

Glenn H. Manglona, the host of the Chamorro radio show *Marianas Agupa*, announced last Friday his intention to run for a House seat in Precinct 1.

"My candidacy is…about the challenges that we are facing in our community. The fundamental core is that we must represent the interest of our people. Nothing more and nothing less. Clean and transparent government is where my compass will take me if elected and given the opportunity to serve my precinct," he said.

Precinct 1 covers San Vicente, Dandan, Koblerville, San Antonio, and part of As Gonno.

Manglona

Manglona, who holds a master's degree in marketing management, is currently on a contract employment as a statistics specialist and epidemiology lead with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center. He and other members of the State Epidemiology Workgroup published the 2011, 2013, and 2016 Epidemiology Profile of the CNMI.

Manglona was also a former economic development officer and resident director for the Department of Commerce.

On Saturdays, from 9am to 11am, you'll hear Manglona on Marianas Agupa on 100.3 FM.

For now, Manglona is the only candidate under the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands for Precinct 1. The other candidates running as independents include Rep. Edwin Propst, Lino Tenorio, Joseph Flores, Franklin Babauta, and Samantha Babauta. ***(PR)***

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Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Friday, May 18, 2018 at 9:30AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

MEETING AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of February 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
Project: CAPITOL HILL WONDERLAND
The Palette, Inc. is proposing to develop approximately 20,484 square meters or about 2.05 hectares on private property on Lots E.A. 411 New-1 and 035 E 29 in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The planned development project includes 57 units and a club house as follows:
- Twenty-one (21) villa/units of Standard Housing at 166 square meters per unit;
- Twenty-six (26) units of Master Housing at 249 square meters per unit with terrace;
- Ten (10) units of Luxury Housing at 420 square meters per unit with individual terrace.

The four-story Club House will include kitchen areas, theater, reception areas, VIP Café, gift shop, restaurants, and a swimming pool and deck with terraces on the fourth floor.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-051
a) Discussion of Application Status
b) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

MVA launches safety outreach via car rental companies

To reach more visitors with information on how to have a safe visit in the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority is reaching out to car rental companies to help.

In April 2018, the MVA began visiting car rental companies to deliver multi-language videos on driving safety, personal safety, and marine protected areas in the Marianas.

"To help ensure our visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience during their visit, we are asking car rental companies to share these videos with their customers, said MVA tour guide certification manager Kuen-Hee Han. "So far, most of the companies have responded very positively to partner with us and pass on this information to their customers. At the same time, we have had the opportunity to hear companies' suggestions and concerns regarding the industry, so it's proving to be a very fruitful initiative."

Companies that have expressed willingness to share the videos with their customers are ABC Rent-a-Car & Leasing, Islander, Thrifty, Alamo/ National, Budget, Hertz, QQ Rental Car, Sangjee Rental Car, Monster, Micronesia Car Rental, LEI Car Rental, although some companies may still need to receive approval from national headquarters.

"We encourage all companies interested in sharing these downloadable videos to contact the MVA," said Han. "In the meantime, we aim to visit all remaining car rental companies in the coming weeks."

Han added that all the companies she visited have road safety books published by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for every car they rent. The MVA's safety videos also air on The Visitors Channel in English, Korea, Chinese, Japanese, and Russia. ***(MVA)***

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NOW $11,299*

2015 Mazda 3 iSport
4-Door, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Gray, STK#U18-033T
NOW $13,999*

2014 Toyota Yaris, FWD
FWD, Auto, Gray, STK#R18-003F
WAS $14,999
NOW $14,499*

2007 FJ Cruiser, V6
Manual, 6-spd, 4WD, Red, Mileage 60,105, STK#U17-133T
WAS $17,599
NOW $14,999*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Auto, White, STK#U17-136L
WAS $16,999
NOW $15,999*

2017 Yaris L Hatchback
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red/Black, STK#R17-028F
WAS $16,999
NOW $15,999*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 21,972
STK#U18-019R
NOW $15,999*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, Blue, Mileage 17,334
STK#U18-017R
NOW $16,199*

2016 Corolla LE
FWD, Auto, 4DR Sedan, Red, STK#R18-006F
WAS $18,699
NOW $17,499*

2016 Scion IM
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 10,372
STK#U18-020R
NOW $17,799*

2016 Corolla LE 4-DR sedan
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Green, Mileage 28,773, STK#R18-004F
WAS $18,999
NOW $18,499*

2016 Scion iM
HB, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Blue, Mileage 25,938,
STK#U18-021R
NOW $18,699*

2016 Scion IM
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 12,937
STK#U18-022R
NOW $18,699*

2016 Prius HV
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, Gray, Mileage 12,638
STK#U18-014R
NOW $20,799*

2017 Corolla LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Black, STK#R18-015F
NOW $20,899*

2016 Camry LE
4-Dr, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 24,399,
STK#U18-028R
NOW $22,599*

2014 Tacoma Double Cab
4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
WAS $32,399
NOW $24,599*

2013 4Runner SR5
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T
WAS $27,699
NOW $25,499*

2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T
WAS $26,899
NOW $25,499*

2015 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P
WAS $29,399
NOW $25,999*

2012 4Runner Trail Edition
Mileage 30,438, V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-096P
WAS $34,999
NOW $26,999*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-108R
WAS $30,599*
NOW $26,999*

2013 4Runner SR5
V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, Mileage 46,113
STK#U18-013T
NOW $28,199*

2015 Nissan Xterra
Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-035T
NOW $30,299*

2016 Sienna, V6
Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 33,929, STK#U18-010L
NOW $30,499*

2017 Tacoma DC, SR
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, Mileage 20,234,
STK#R18-012F
NOW $30,999*

2016 4Runner SR5
V6, Auto, 4WD, Silver, STK#U18-027R
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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GINA HASPEL'S FIRST DAY AS CIA DIRECTOR
HOW SOON CAN YOU BEGIN TORTURING COMEY AND MUELLER?
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EDITORIAL

Trump gambles on different path to rein in Iran's nuclear ambitions

With everything Donald Trump has said about the nuclear deal with Iran, from his earliest days as candidate to the White House, his decision this week to end United States participation should come as no surprise.

Unlike many issues, on this he has been consistent. The president has said the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, otherwise known as the Iran deal, shorted U.S. interests, lacked transparency and only delayed Iran's development of a nuclear weapon. Recent changes among his top advisers may have accelerated Trump's timeline, but this is where he was headed.

What the nation confronts today is whether the ultimate destination is one the president's team can reach.

Trump's action will reinstate economic sanctions against Iran, pledge new ones and increase the risk of confrontation with an Iranian regime that has shown little interest in peaceful cooperation.

For now, this splits the U.S. and its major European allies and exacerbates tensions with China and Russia, who also joined the 2015 Iran deal. This is no insignificant issue, especially when the U.S. forces trade partners to choose between Iran—and sanctions—and the lucrative American market.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom wanted to avoid that but failed to sway Trump at the 11th hour. They now say they intend to negotiate with Iran to salvage what's left of the deal.

Nevertheless, U.S. sanctions are a daunting hammer. They hobbled Iran's economy, for instance, and it has not recovered, despite the regime receiving much of the deal's financial benefit upfront. Unrest is rampant among Iranian citizens apparently less enamored with ballistic missile testing and funding terrorism than the people running their country.

That key regional allies Israel and Saudi Arabia back Trump's decision should indicate a possible opening to reshape the international landscape against the direction the Iranian regime demands.

The gamble for Trump is significant. He was able to withdraw U.S. participation because his predecessor, Barack Obama, chose not to seek congressional treaty approval. If the Iranian regime rushes back into enrichment activities, the resulting international crisis could lead to military action no one should want.

Managing this pivotal situation will demand clear-eyed strategic thinking and precise, steady execution. Neither has yet proven to be a strength of the Trump administration, but this is the road he has chosen.

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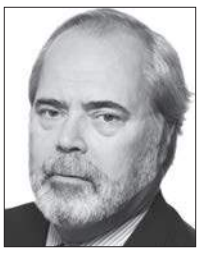
Trump pulls the plug on defective Iran nuclear deal



By JAMES PHILLIPS
The Heritage Foundation

Jim Phillips is senior research fellow for Middle Eastern Affairs at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).

No need to mourn the Iran nuclear deal. When President Donald Trump pulled the plug on it, after months of warning that the flawed 2015 agreement needed to be ended or mended, he was just taking a defective agreement off life support.

In his speech announcing the renewal of nuclear sanctions on Iran that had been suspended under the deal, the president noted that at the heart of the nuclear agreement "was a giant fiction that a murderous regime desired only a peaceful nuclear energy program."

In fact, the controversial agreement was making things worse. It did a much better job in dismantling sanctions against Iran than it did in dismantling Tehran's nuclear infrastructure. None of the illicit facilities that the regime covertly built in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty were required to be permanently closed down under the deal.

By allowing Iran to retain its nuclear facilities and rewarding it for cheating, the agreement in effect legitimized Iran as a threshold nuclear state.

Iran also was granted a better deal on uranium enrichment than Washington offered to its own allies. South Korea, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates were denied uranium enrichment arrangements.

Incredibly, the Obama administration approved enrichment capabilities for Iran that the Ford administration had denied to Iran when it was a U.S. ally, before the 1979 revolution.

Moreover, the risky agreement gave Tehran massive sanctions relief upfront, while only requiring it to make temporary and easily reversible concessions that would delay, but not halt its nuclear ambitions.

Key restrictions on uranium enrichment would have been lifted after 10 to 15 years under the deal. Tehran then would have been free to ramp up its enrichment program to an industrial scale and build up its stockpile of enriched uranium, enabling it to make a final sprint to a nuclear breakout.

This is why the president warned: "The Iran deal is defective at its core. If we do nothing, we know exactly what will happen. In just a short period of time, the world's leading state sponsor of terror will be on the cusp of acquiring the world's most dangerous weapons."

Contrary to the promises of the Obama administration, the nuclear deal did not moderate Iran's hostile foreign policy. In fact, Tehran stepped up its malign activities in the Middle East since 2015, and the nuclear agreement has made a bad situation worse by boosting Iran's dictatorship in the economic, military and geopolitical spheres.

President Trump also warned that: "If the regime continues its nuclear aspirations, it will have bigger problems than it has ever had before."

But he was careful to distinguish between the regime and "the long-suffering people of Iran" whom he assured: "The people of America stand with you."

This implicit call for regime change was balanced with a willingness to negotiate a new deal with Iran. He ended on a hopeful note after acknowledging that Iran's leaders had ruled out new nuclear negotiations: "But the fact is they are going to want to make a new and lasting deal, one that benefits all of Iran and the Iranian people. When they do, I am ready, willing and able."

This was precisely the right message to send. Iran's repressive rulers know that they stand on shaky ground. They are increasingly unpopular and were targeted by a wave of public protests in January in which they were denounced for their mismanagement of Iran's faltering economy, widespread corruption and squandering Iran's resources by meddling in Syria, Lebanon and Gaza.

Trump's triggering of economic sanctions now confronts Iran's regime with a dilemma: if it clings to its nuclear ambitions it risks provoking a renewed popular rebellion against its misplaced priorities, in addition to a possible military confrontation with the United States.

The diplomatic ball is now in Tehran's court.

But Trump has changed the nature of the game. He is trying to work with the Iranian people to leverage their growing disaffection with their own rulers.

Iran's rulers can make the situation worse by threatening to crank up their nuclear program, or they can seek a diplomatic solution to their deepening economic and political problems.

Either way, President Trump has indicated he is willing and able to respond.

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Will Trump turn out to be right about Iran deal?

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

So, so many are quick to say President Donald Trump made a horrible error in withdrawing from the 2015 Iranian nuclear accord, and some doubts are understandable even as the definitive harrumph is nonsense.

The fact is, Trump kept pushing Iran to exhibit peaceful intent, it did not and we are therefore in a situation where its continuing evil is ever more a real peril even if unseen by those who do not want to see.

Iran has been moving ahead to build nuclear weapons. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demonstrated as much with 100,000 hidden Iranian documents that Israel found. Critics yawn, but some of those showed Iranian determination to roll ahead with its weaponizing ambition, if at a slower pace.

The deal from the start never said hey, stop everything. It just said quit doing as much as you were. It let Iran keep its nuclear infrastructure and keep enriching uranium if not by as much. It said Iran could still shoot off those ballistic missiles, obviously meant to transport nukes someday.

All of these appeasement nods would somehow work out, the Barack Obama team said, because we would build better relations with Iran over time and we've got a good inspection regime. According to deal supporters, Iran has majestically lived up to every promise.

False, false and false. Instead of geniality, what we've received from Iran is threats to wipe out Israel, the harassment of the U.S. military to the point of taking hostages and a bloody, terroristic presence in the Middle East meant to say Iran would soon be in murderous control. The Iranians have at least a day to prepare for any inspection and inspectors are denied any access at all to particularly suspect military bases that Britain, France and Germany agree should be looked at.

As for compliance with the deal, consider some 32 illicit efforts to get foreign technology that have nuclear weaponry implications, at least as reported by a German intelligence agency.

President Barack Obama said the only alternative to the weak-kneed deal was war, and some Trump critics have said his abandonment of the deal could send Iran scurrying to get its nukes, something that would now take about a year as compared to maybe three months before the deal. The thing is, some of the other six countries involved in this are making billions through trade with Iran, and for that reason and others, want to keep their part of the deal intact.

So does Iran because, instead of taking returned billions and putting them into its economy, it put them into military buildup and support of terrorism. The economy is collapsing, strikes are happening, outright rebellion could be in the offing and the regime could be in peril without that trade. Because of a return of U.S. financial sanctions, none of this will be nearly as profitable on either side as before, however, and Iran may just finally decide that it had better heed some of what Trump wants

Consider that the Obama deal was comparable to President Bill Clinton's nuke deal with North Korea – all talk, little action – and then consider how Trump's tough stance is just maybe working with North Korea. Ponder how North Koreans recently released three American prisoners as a prelude to talks while the Iranians released no American prisoners until Obama provided a ransom that he and confused supporters said was not a ransom.

Some good has come out of the Iranian deal, such as Iran sending Russia much of its super-enriched uranium while getting all kinds of natural uranium back, but it was Obama who facilitated the U.S. departure. Contrary to the Constitution which he promised to "preserve, protect and defend," he did not get a required treaty that the Senate would have to ratify, but a deal Trump could easily break.

But just maybe improve, too.

I have no post-apocalyptic life skills

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? *and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*

My friend Heidi Rockefeller was wearing a T-shirt the other day that impressed me with its defiant declaration of an undeniable truth: "Knitting is not a hobby. Knitting is a post-apocalyptic life skill."

I know the truth of Heidi's statement on a personal level because I wear socks that she has knitted for me and watch TV while cuddled under an afghan that not only provides warmth but is also a work of art fit to be placed in the American Folk Art Museum.

There's no doubt that Heidi has a better chance of surviving after some huge annihilation than I. Not only can she knit, she knows how to butcher an animal and then make a delicious chili from it.

My life skills include heating up the chili that Heidi has made and purchasing sour cream, shredded cheese and Fritos. Basically, I have no post-apocalyptic life skills apart from sticking close to Heidi.

I couldn't even heat up pre-made food over a fire I made myself. I don't know how to make a fire, which is the kind of thing they teach you in the Girl Scouts. I know how to set a fire, which is the kind of thing they teach you in Brooklyn. It's different.

Worse yet, I didn't even learn the more useful arts of personal defense and aggression, such as climbing a chain-link fence or being able to put somebody's eye out with a fork, both of which seem like they might come in handy.

What I could do, according to my family, would be to talk my enemies to death. They would be forced to take their own lives just to shut me up.

But, as it turns out, the most commonplace post-apocalyptic life skill almost everybody I know believes she or he possesses—and I am quoting from dozens of people here—is storytelling.

And this has brought me to the inevitable conclusion that storytellers will be the first group to be eaten after the apocalypse. My Facebook friend Frances Badgett put it best when she explained that her neighborhood did a disaster training in which they had to describe their talents: "Mine were poetry, fiction, and playing cello. So basically I'm the one you eat." Marnie Delaney believes she would be delectable, especially when paired with "a hearty cabernet sauvignon, of course. Widely available and great when paired with foods high in fat and umami flavors."

You remember how, in Shakespeare's "Henry VI," there's a line where some men are musing about the perfect future and they say, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers"? That's what the survivors will do to those of us who think that a great story will go a long way. They'll be rounding us up and putting us in pens, probably made of unclimbable chain-link fencing, and dividing us into breakfast, lunch and dinner.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Tautological Tribute Trilogy

Sonnets inspired by CARL SANDBERG

Money, Politics, Love, and Glory

"Why do those on the inside want to get out? Why do those outside want to get in?"

—Carl Sandberg, American poet (1878 – 1967)

My best guess to the answer of why those outside want to get in
and vice versa is money, and lots of it, poverty pushing power
in Bertolt Brecht's play 'Man Is Man' a soldier tells his comrade
in arms, "I can't move forward and I can't move back" Stuck.
out of luck in the muck at war with words the economy absurd
power corrupts so are those who want power already corrupted
when were pathways to riches lost found detoured or interrupted
is acquiring money the necessary evil to bring people out of poverty
only to perpetuate poverty among others who live in their world
there is of course no glory whatsoever in hurting sisters and brothers
than the politics of love enters the picture with emotional scripture
a love for family children neighbors country husband and wife
will help the perilous passage between inside and outside desires
and help us maintain an even keel as we sail through our life.

The Plight of Bling Boy Billionaires

"They lied to each other, they lied with an importance of falsifying large. They broke out with impossible propositions. They acted as though they live in a republic of separate laws."

—Carl Sandberg (1878 – 1967)

Do the words of Carl Sandberg's poem 'Chillicothe' sound familiar
Sandberg writes, "They broke out with impossible propositions "
certain members of Trump's Cabinet take actions quite similar
think of Pruitt's soundproof booth and travel purchase requisitions.
45 picks 'em up and subsequently kicks 'em out with regularity
Sandberg, "They acted as though they live in a republic of separate laws"
today his Cabinet secretaries operate their departments with similarity
abusing privileges in jobs over their head they tighten their jaws.
He stationed billionaires in his Cabinet to his right and to his left
they were appointed regardless of experience or area of expertise
while most of them continue with what is clearly taxpayer theft
which seems to be an insatiable bling boy billionaire's disease.
As the nation watches democracies downfall in horror and fright
in broad daylight Trump's cronies practice their pecuniary plight.

We Don't Know the Half of It

" … the government at Washington lives. Let it go at that. There are lies, damn lies and statistics. Figures don't lie but liars can figure. There's more truth than poetry in that. You don't know the half of it, dearie."

—From "Good Morning America" by Carl Sandberg.

A recent factoid printed and broadcast by what the POTUS brands
the 'lying media' says that our 45th POTUS has told more than 3,000
lies since taking office. I think most Americans in red states and blue
would agree with the motto "In God We Trust". Is a new motto
entering commonplace parlance in our everyday speech? Maybe
"Trump Tweets A Bust" or "45 Ways Why Not To Trust POTUS."
Who knows whether he'll make it four years through his first term.
now only two high ranking generals keeping the ship of state afloat
personal and government lawyers and WH staff all starting to squirm
Trump oblivious more focused increasing future Republican votes
many voters on the left and right sides of the political spectrum
tired of the constant cascade of lies and expectations to get used to it
think of our 45th POTUS as a serious pain in the nations rectum
who tweets daily strategy and policy online off-the-cuff as he sees fit.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds around 10 mph.
▲86° ▼77°

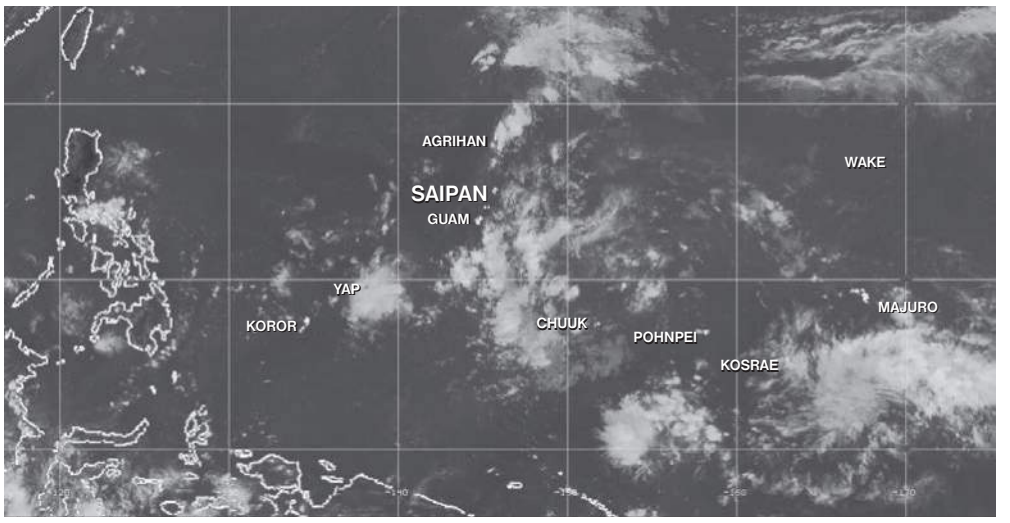
WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The showers to the east on the radar are not really moving toward us. However, the feature producing them is. Brought the clouds in a bit earlier than the previous forecast, after midnight tonight, and raised the coverage later to scattered. The existence of a northwest swell is a little surprising, though it would be from the north. This means the surf on west facing reefs could be slightly underestimated. It might be 2 to 4 feet versus the 1 to 2 feet in the surf forecast. The main forecast philosophy is unchanged, with increased clouds and showers the next couple days, then getting drier again. The feature causing these showers is a trough extending south-southeastward from the now dissipated Tropical Storm 04W.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	90° / 70°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 54°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	80° / 75°
New York	Cloudy	68° / 57°
Osaka	Sunny	81° / 64°
Paris	Showers	63° / 46°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 63°
Rome	Showers	68° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	95° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Tokyo	Sunny	79° / 63°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	80° / 64°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:20 AM	LOW TIDE	0.75
6:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.02
1:49 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.23
8:23 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.00

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:30 AM	6:25 PM	-
Wednesday	6:20 AM	7:26 PM	-
Thursday	7:15 AM	8:28 PM	-
Friday	8:13 AM	9:31 PM	-
Saturday	9:14 AM	10:31 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Sharing a coworker's grief over terminally ill pet

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: I work at a pet-friendly company where people are allowed to bring their dogs. My coworker "Mandy" has a golden retriever, and I have grown very fond of him. Whenever I have a bad day, his friendly spirit immediately cheers me up.

Mandy recently learned that her wonderful dog is terminally ill and doesn't have long to live. I feel so sad for both of them, but I'm not sure how to communicate with Mandy during this difficult time. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Kudos to you for being sensitive to your coworker's grief. Because pets are like family for many people, the death of a dog can be emotionally wrenching. For that reason, you should handle this illness much as you would that of a close relative.

From time to time, ask Mandy how her dog is doing and how she is feeling. Her response should help you determine whether she would like to continue the conversation. While some people find it helpful to talk, others dislike discussing painful topics.

If Mandy gives a short reply which seems to discourage further discussion, don't push for additional information. But if you sense that she would like to share more, follow up with appropriate questions or comments.

Once her pet passes away, express sorrow for her loss, reminisce about what a great dog he was, and let her know how his presence helped you. Then, as before, just follow her lead. If she seems to feel like talking, perhaps you could invite her to lunch.

However, you should avoid suggesting that her problem can be solved by getting another dog. Although there might be some truth to this, many pet owners resent the implication that their companions are interchangeable.

Q: For the past six months, we have been struggling to cope with an incompetent district manager. "Jake" makes decisions and then changes his mind without telling anyone. When we explain that we were just following his original orders, he gets mad and refuses to believe us. If we provide documentation, he becomes very defensive.

Ever since Jake was put in charge, our turnover rate has gone through the roof. The human resources manager recently left because Jake overruled every policy that she tried to implement. She was the only one who helped us manage this insanity.

Although this is a large multi-state company, our office is fairly small, so losing people is tough. The owners have to be aware of the increased turnover, but they've done nothing to investigate. What can we do?

A: You might be making an erroneous assumption. In a large company with multiple locations, the owners may have no clue about what's happening in one small office. But if Jake is as bad as you say, they would probably like to know. So your group might want to contact them and explain why so many folks are jumping ship.

Given the HR manager's history of helpfulness, perhaps she would be willing to guide you through this process and share her own impressions. However, if this plan seems unrealistic or the owners just don't care, you might want to follow your former colleagues out the door.

Trump says US will help penalized Chinese company

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a surprising overture to China, President Donald Trump said Sunday he would help a Chinese telecommunications company get "back into business," saying too many jobs in China are at stake after the U.S. government cut off access to its American suppliers.

At issue is the Commerce Department's move last month to block the ZTE Corp., a major supplier of telecoms networks and smartphones based in southern China, from importing American components for seven years. The U.S. accused ZTE of misleading American regulators after it settled charges of violating sanctions against North Korea and Iran.

The case dates to before Trump took office in January 2007 but the Commerce Department's decision came amid worsening trade tensions between the U.S. and China centered on technology-related intellectual property.

Trump's unexpected announcement came as the two countries prepared to continue trade talks in Washington this week. Given his past vows to stop the flow of U.S. jobs to China and crack down on what he says are unfair trade practices, Trump's tweet of concern about Chinese jobs was something of a backflip.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-020

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF ENGINES 8 AND 4 AT POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, of the removal of the engine frame and alternator assemblies from its foundation, dismantling and further relocation to a designated location as detailed in the bid documents. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC power plant Conference Room. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-020 - Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKING AND SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP Nos. 3-69-0003-26/XX).**

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018,** at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, requires the removal and replacement of all airfield markings, procurement and replacement of airfield signage and other miscellaneous work in accordance with the plans and specifications and in compliance with FAA's Advisory Circular No. 150/5340-1L.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.2 (Contract Time) of the General Project Requirement of the Technical Specifications. Liquidated damages shall be in accordance with Item G-100-3.4 (Liquidated Damages) of the General Project Requirements. The contractor shall be assessed with the liquidated damages if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** for each set of plan and specification documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Rota Port Manager's Office at 10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-24 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government-wide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 11, 2018

Nation

Pompeo points to potential security assurances for Kim

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is offering assurances to North Korea's Kim Jong Un as it seeks to put in motion the potential for a sweeping nuclear deal ahead of President Donald Trump's upcoming summit with the North Korean leader.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. will need to "provide security assurances" to Kim if they're able to forge an agreement. Pompeo met with Kim last week in North Korea, helping set the stage for Trump's historic meeting with Kim in Singapore on June 12.

Trump has set an ambitious goal for North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons in a permanent and verifiable way. In return, the U.S. is willing to help the impoverished nation strengthen its economy.

Pompeo was asked on "Fox News Sunday" whether the U.S. was in effect telling Kim he could stay in power if he met the U.S. demands. Pompeo said: "We will have to provide security assurances, to be sure."

The top U.S. diplomat did not elaborate, but his comment could refer to the type of assurances North Korea has sought in the past. A statement issued during international negotiations with North Korea in 2005 over its nuclear weapons development said the "United States affirmed that it has no nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and has no intention to attack or invade (North Korea) with nuclear or conventional weapons."

The North has said it needs nuclear weapons to counter what it believes is a U.S. effort to strangle its economy and overthrow the Kim government.

"Make no mistake about it, America's interest here is preventing the risk that North Korea will launch a nuclear weapon into L.A. or Denver or to the very place we're sitting here this morning," Pompeo said from Washington. "That's our objective, that's the end state the president has laid out and that's the mission that he sent me on this past week, to put us on the trajectory to go achieve that."

Pressed in a separate interview on whether the U.S. would seek regime change, Pompeo said "only time will tell how these negotiations will proceed."

"The president uses language that says 'we'll see,'" Pompeo told CBS's "Face the Nation." ''The American leadership under President Trump has its eyes wide open."

North Korea said Saturday that all of the tunnels at the country's northeastern nuclear test site will be destroyed by explosion in less than two weeks, ahead of Kim's summit with Trump. Observation and research facilities and ground-based guard units will also be removed, the North said. Pompeo praised it as "one step along the way."

John Bolton, the president's national security adviser, described the types of steps that North Korea would need to take as part of a denuclearization process, including the potential involvement of a processing center in Tennessee.

"The implementation of the decision means getting rid of all the nuclear weapons, dismantling them, taking them to Oak Ridge, Tennessee," Bolton said in an interview with ABC's "This Week." ''It means getting rid of the uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing capabilities," adding the process would also need to address North Korea's ballistic missiles.

"I don't think anybody believes you're going to sign the complete ending of the nuclear program in one day. But we are also very much interested in operationalizing the commitment as quickly as possible," Bolton said.

AP

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a media availability with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha at the State Department, Friday, May 11, 2018 in Washington.

Noisy Hawaiian volcano lava fissure prompts more evacuations

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—A new fissure emitting steam and lava spatter spurred Hawaii officials to call for more evacuations on Sunday as residents braced for an expected eruption from the Kilauea volcano.

The Hawaii County Civil Defense issued an alert after the fissure was discovered along a road west of a major highway on the Big Island. Residents on that road were told to evacuate, and two nearby community centers were serving as shelters for people and pets.

The new opening was still showing signs of activity Sunday afternoon.

Popping, exploding and sloshing sounds could be heard from the fissure as far as 1,500 yards (1,400 meters) away. But the behavior from the fissure was not terribly vigorous, the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said.

"The appearance of the fissures in the past couple of days does not change the overall picture or concern," observatory scientist Steve Brantley said. "The amount of lava that has erupted from the fissure so far is very, very small."

The fissure measures about 1,000 feet (300 meters) long. Brantley said it was emitting intermittent lava spatter but there was no substantial lava flow.

The fissures, ground deformation and abundant volcanic gases indicate eruptions on the eastern flank of Kilauea are likely to continue.

Most of the lava outbreaks have occurred in and around the Leilani Estates neighborhood, where molten rock has burst through the ground, destroying more than two dozen homes and resulting in evacuation orders for nearly 2,000 people.

The U.S. Geological Survey has reported nearly 20 active fissures. One that opened Saturday night was spattering, but no flow had formed.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reported the fissures opened just east of the Puna Geothermal Venture energy conversion plant, where steam and hot liquid are brought up through underground wells and the steam feeds a turbine generator to produce electricity. Plant workers last week as a precaution removed 50,000 gallons of a flammable gas stored at the site.

Geologists warn that Kilauea's summit could have an explosive steam eruption that would hurl rocks and ash miles into the sky.

ACROSS THE NATION

Nanny to be sentenced in killing of 2 children

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City nanny who killed two small children in her care is facing life in prison. Yoselyn Ortega (YOH'-sih-lihn ohr-TAY'-guh) is set to be sentenced Monday following her conviction of murder last month in the 2012 deaths of Lucia and Leo Krim. The nanny's lawyer had argued that Ortega was mentally ill and couldn't be held responsible for the children's deaths. Lucia was 6. Leo was 2. Prosecutors say Ortega knew what she was doing and understood "every stab, every slash" as she slaughtered the children. The children's mother found them in a bathroom. The parents' testimony made jurors weep during the emotional trial.

Sheriff's deputy shot, wounded at car wash; worker arrested

SONOMA, Calif. (AP)—A sheriff's deputy responding to a report of a disturbance at a California car wash has been shot and wounded. Sheriff's officials say the deputy was hospitalized in good condition following the shooting Sunday about a mile (1.6 kilometers) west of downtown Sonoma. A 19-year-old car wash worker has been arrested. The San Francisco Chronicle reports two deputies responded when a car wash manager reported an employee was acting strangely and refused to go home. Officials say the employee opened fire, striking one of the deputies. The newspaper says at least one of the deputies returned fire but did not hit the employee. A handgun has been recovered at the scene. Investigators have not identified a motive.

Wisconsin group wants officer charged for punching teen

WAUWATOSA, Wis. (AP)—A community organization is calling for a Wisconsin police officer to be fired and charged after a video surfaced showing a white officer punching a black teenager in the face outside a mall during an arrest. The video that a passer-by recorded shows a Wauwatosa officer punching a 17-year-old boy Friday during an incident in which security at a mall in Wauwatosa had called authorities about a group of males causing a disturbance, WISN-TV and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. "I wanted to help, but then I didn't want to get myself in no trouble as well," Tyrone Jackson, the man who shot the video, told WISN-TV. He added that he thinks the officer could have used "better force" than punching the teen. The Original Black Panthers of Milwaukee is demanding that the officer resign or be fired, and calling on prosecutors to charge the officer. The group also wants Wauwatosa police officers to undergo diversity training and is urging shoppers to boycott the mall, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

Ex-Chipotle manager gets $8 million for wrongful termination

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A California jury has awarded nearly $8 million dollars to the former manager of a Chipotle Mexican Grill for wrongful termination. Jeanette Ortiz was accused in 2015 of stealing $626 in cash from a safe at the restaurant in Fresno. Her bosses claimed the theft was recorded on surveillance video, but when Ortiz asked to see the evidence she was told it had been destroyed. Ortiz fired a wrongful termination suit. The Fresno Bee reports that last week jurors ordered Chipotle to pay her $7.97 million in damages. The panel ruled Ortiz was a victim of a scheme to defame her for filing a worker's compensation claim for a job-related injury to her wrist. A Chipotle spokeswoman on Sunday declined to comment on the jury's decision.

Asia

Isolated and threatened, Taiwan boosts domestic arms makers

AP
In this May 11, 2018 photo released by Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense, a Taiwanese Air Force fighter aircraft, left, flies near a Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) H6-K bomber that reportedly flew over the Luzon Strait south of Taiwan during an exercise.

TAICHUNG, Taiwan (AP)—Standing on his company's sprawling campus in central Taiwan, Lin Nan-juh says he's able to make any plane his island's threatened government calls for.

"We can do whatever's asked," says Lin, president of Aerospace Industrial Development Corp., or AIDC, a leader in the defense industry serving the isolated self-governing island that China claims as its own territory and threatens to invade.

It's a bold statement with potentially major significance for Taiwan's democratic survival as it seeks to build up its domestic defense industry in the face of China's threats and the reluctance of foreign arms suppliers to provide it with the planes, ships, submarines and other hardware it needs to defend its 23 million people.

While the U.S.—which is legally bound to respond to threats to Taiwan—continues to be its main arms supplier, Taiwan is increasingly looking to replace those politically fraught, touch-and-go deals with domestic production that is reliable as well as technologically advanced.

Taiwan's indigenous systems are "both a source of national pride and a product of necessity," said David An, senior research fellow with the Washington-based policy incubator Global Taiwan Institute. "As it's commonly said, necessity is the mother of invention."

The self-reliance policy has been strongly promoted by Taiwan's pro-independence president, Tsai Ing-wen, whose government has been shunned by Beijing since shortly after she took office more than two years ago. Defense is included in Tsai's economic program targeting eight industries for innovation and job creation, with the government helping match its defense needs with the abilities of Taiwanese companies.

China's recent actions have underscored the risk for Taiwan.

Beijing has been upping pressure on the island by cutting its already tenuous diplomatic links and has sent military planes and an aircraft carrier close to the island multiple times. China now has the world's second-largest defense budget behind the U.S., significantly boosting its ability to blockade, attack and possibly invade Taiwan.

Taiwan's domestic arms industry got started in the 1970s, more than two decades after Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces fled to the former Japanese colony after Mao Zedong's Communists seized power on the mainland in 1949.

Adaption and development of foreign technology gave companies such as AIDC much of what they needed to grow and help keep the peace with the mainland, said Mei Fu-shing, director of the Taiwan Security Analysis Center, a research and consulting practice based in New York.

"Indigenously developed and produced weapons have contributed materially to deterrence in the Taiwan Strait over the past three or four decades," Mei said.

Taiwan's capabilities have improved of late in both quality and technical sophistication, Mei said, pointing to the production of air-to-air missiles as an example. "Taiwan's defense industry obviously has progressed," making it less reliant on foreign sources, he said.

Along with protest actions from Beijing—including the suspension of exchanges with the U.S. military after a $6.4 billion arms package for Taiwan was announced in 2010—U.S. sales are constrained by concerns about the leaking of sensitive advanced technology across the 160-kilometer (100-mile) -wide Taiwan Strait to China.

Despite that, such sales continue, with the Trump administration notifying Congress last year of its intent to approve seven proposed deals for technical support, anti-radiation missiles, torpedoes and other technology valued at around $1.42 billion.

And last month, the administration agreed to allow U.S. firms with the technology to build much-needed diesel-electric submarines. Taiwan's navy today operates just two aging subs bought from the Netherlands in the 1980s.

Analysts say sales of technology are less likely to prompt a strong response from China than those of complete systems such as planes or submarines.

Police: Members of a family bombed 3 Indonesian churches

SURABAYA, Indonesia (AP)—Coordinated suicide bombings carried out by members of the same family struck three churches in Indonesia's second-largest city Sunday, police said, as the world's most populous Muslim nation recoiled in horror at one of its worst attacks since the 2002 Bali bombings.

At least seven people died at the churches in Surabaya along with the six family members, the youngest of whom were girls aged 9 and 12, according to police. Another 41 people were injured.

Indonesia's president condemned the attacks as "barbaric."

National police chief Tito Karnavian said that the father detonated a car bomb, two sons aged 18 and 16 used a motorcycle for their attack, and the mother and her two daughters wore explosives.

Karnavian said the family had returned to Indonesia from Syria, where until recently the Islamic State group controlled significant territory.

IS claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency. It didn't mention anything about families or children taking part and said there were only three attackers.

Indonesia's deadliest terrorist attack occurred in 2002, when bombs exploded on the tourist island of Bali, killing 202 people in one night, mostly foreigners. But the fact that children were involved in Sunday's attacks in Surabaya shocked and angered the country.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for suicide bombings at three churches in Indonesia that killed at least 13 people and wounded dozens. The extremist group claimed Sunday's attacks in a statement carried by its Aamaq news agency.(May 13)

Jemaah Islamiyah, the network responsible for the Bali attacks, was obliterated by a sustained crackdown on militants by Indonesia's counter-terrorism police with U.S. and Australian support. A new threat has emerged in recent years, inspired by IS attacks abroad.

Experts on militant networks have warned for several years that the estimated 1,100 Indonesians who traveled to Syria to join IS posed a threat if they returned home.

Karnavian identified the father as Dita Futrianto and said he was head of the Surabaya cell of Jemaah Anshorut Daulah, an Indonesian militant network affiliated with IS that has been implicated in attacks in Indonesia in the past year. He identified the mother as Puji Kuswati.

The attacks occurred within minutes of each other, according to Surabaya police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera.

Karnavian said Futrianto drove a bomb-laden car into the city's Pentecostal church.

Kuswati, with her two daughters, attacked the Christian Church of Diponegoro, he said. Based on their remains, Karnavian said the mother and daughters were all wearing explosives around their waists.

The sons rode a motorcycle onto the grounds of the Santa Maria Church and detonated their explosives there.

A witness said the woman arrived at the Diponegoro church carrying two bags.

"At first officers blocked them in front of the churchyard, but the woman ignored them and forced her way inside. Suddenly, she hugged a civilian, then (the bomb) exploded," said the witness, a security guard who identified himself as Antonius.

At Santa Maria, a Catholic church, shattered glass and chunks of concrete littered the entrance, which was sealed off by armed police. Rescuers treated victims in a nearby field while officers inspected wrecked and burned motorcycles in the parking lot.

A street merchant outside the church said she was thrown several meters (yards) by the blast.

Militants attack eastern Afghan government building, 10 dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Militants attacked a provincial government building in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing at least ten people, officials said.

Attahullah Khogyani, the spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said a suicide car bomb exploded outside the building, which belongs to the provincial finance directorate. The attackers then stormed the building, trading fire with security officials.

"There were eight terrorists who carried out a coordinated attack in Jalalabad city, killing ten people," Khogyani said. He added that 42 other people were wounded during a five-hour battle.

He said security forces killed six of the attackers after two of them carried out suicide attacks near the building's entrance. Security forces were able to rescue around 50 employees stuck in the building during the attack, he added.

Inamullah Miakhial, a Nangarhar hospital spokesman, also confirmed the dead toll and said that more than 40 wounded people are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Both the Taliban and a local Islamic State affiliate have carried out numerous attacks in Nangarhar.

Afghan security forces have struggled to combat the Taliban and IS since the U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat role in the country in 2014, shifting to a support and counterterrorism mission. The Taliban have seized control of districts across the country, and the two groups have carried out attacks in the Afghan capital, Kabul, in recent months that killed scores of people.

World

Israel kicks off US Embassy celebration, boosts border force

AP
A road sign leading to the U.S. Embassy is seen ahead the official opening in Jerusalem, Sunday, May 13, 2018.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel on Sunday kicked off festivities to celebrate the opening of the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, even as it bolstered its forces along the Gaza border and in the West Bank in anticipation of mass Palestinian protests of the move.

A day before the embassy's formal opening, Israel hosted a gala party at its Foreign Ministry with President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka, her husband, Jared Kushner, and other American VIPs.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's "bold decision" in upending decades of U.S. policy by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. "It's the right thing to do," a smiling Netanyahu told the jubilant crowd.

Trump announced his decision on Jerusalem in December, triggering a joyous reaction from Netanyahu's nationalist government. The move infuriated the Palestinians, who claim Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as their capital.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas halted ties with the Trump administration and declared it unfit to remain in its role as the sole mediator in peace talks.

The rival Hamas movement, which controls the Gaza Strip, has been staging a series of weekly demonstrations against a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the territory. Those protests are to climax Monday, with tens of thousands of people expected to gather along the Israeli border in an event timed to coincide with the U.S. Embassy move.

Hamas has signaled that large crowds, numbering perhaps in the thousands, might try to break through the border fence to realize the "right of return" to lost homes.

Both the embassy move and the protests have symbolic timing. Trump has said the opening is meant to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's establishment. The Palestinian protests also mark the date as the anniversary of their "naqba," or catastrophe, when hundreds of thousands of people fled or were forced from their homes during the war surrounding the event. About two-thirds of Gaza's 2 million people are descendants of Palestinian refugees.

A mass border breach could trigger potentially lethal Israeli force. Forty-two Palestinians have been killed and over 1,800 have been wounded by Israeli fire since the weekly protests began on March 30. The U.N., European Union and rights groups have accused Israel of using excessive force against unarmed protesters.

Israel says it is protecting a sovereign border and accuses Hamas of using the unrest to plan and carry out attacks. Marchers have thrown stones and burned tires at the fence and flown flaming kites over it to try to set Israeli fields on fire.

On Friday, a Palestinian crowd attacked the main cargo crossing between Israel and Gaza, disrupting shipments of cooking fuel, gasoline and building materials, and causing millions of dollars in damage. Israeli officials said it could take weeks or months to repair the crossing.

"Unfortunately, the crossing is closed today and will remain closed until the foreseeable future due to severe damage caused by Palestinian rioters," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman. "It is still unclear how long it will take to fix and replace the necessary parts."

The Israeli military announced that it bolstered forces on the Gaza border with combat battalions, special units, intelligence forces and snipers. Israeli warplanes also dropped leaflets in Gaza, urging residents to stay far from the fence.

French police question parents, friend of Paris attacker

PARIS (AP)—Investigators are following the trail of a 20-year-old Frenchman born in Chechnya who rampaged through a festive Paris neighborhood slashing passers-by with a knife, raising anew the specter of terrorism in France after less than two months of calm.

Using a knife, the man identified as Khamzat Azimov killed one person and wounded four others in a festive area near Paris' old opera house. Police shot him to death as he charged them, witnesses said. Less than 24 hours later, investigators were questioning three people—his parents and a friend.

The Islamic State group quickly claimed responsibility for the Saturday night attack via its Aamaq news agency, saying Azimov was their "soldier" acting in response to the group's calls for supporters to target members of the U.S.-led anti-IS military coalition, a stock response. France's military has been active in the coalition since 2014.

On Sunday, Aamaq released a posthumous video said to show the attacker calling on Muslims in Europe to "take action in the land of disbelievers" if they can't travel to the crumbling caliphate in Iraq and Syria, which has been pounded by coalition forces. The man said French citizens should pressure their government "if you want it (attacks) to end."

SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi propaganda, obtained the video, which could not be independently authenticated. The young man's face is covered, except for his eyes, with a black bandanna and the hood of his coat. The video was made outside amid trees and falling rain. French authorities had no comment.

Police detained Azimov's parents in the northern 18th district of Paris and held a friend from Strasbourg in that city on the border with Germany in eastern France, French officials said. The friend was detained Sunday afternoon.

A security official said investigators searched the Paris residence of the parents. The official wasn't authorized to speak about the investigation and insisted on not being quoted by name.

French media reported that the family had lived in Strasbourg, and it wasn't clear if the suspect moved to Paris with his parents.

Counterterrorism investigators want to know if the assailant had help or co-conspirators. The attacker killed a 29-year-old man and wounded four other people, one from Luxembourg, before police fatally shot him.

The suspect was on a police watch list for radicalism, a judicial official not authorized to speak publicly about the case told The Associated Press. But he had a clean criminal record and did not know his victims, Interior Ministry spokesman Frederic de Lanouvelle said.

Witnesses reported hearing the man shouting "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great," during the attack that happened at about 9 p.m. in a lively area near the Opera Garnier.

The assailant obtained French nationality in 2010, the Interior Ministry spokesman said. He was born in November 1997 in the largely Muslim Russian republic of Chechnya, where extremism has long simmered. Chechens have been among the numerous foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq, some joining the Islamic State cause early in the fighting.

Shiite cleric Sadr leads in Iraq's initial election results

BAGHDAD (AP)—The political coalition of influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr took an early lead in Iraq's national elections in partial returns announced late Sunday by the Iraqi electoral commission.

An alliance of candidates linked to Iraq's powerful Shiite paramilitary groups was in second. The alliance is headed by Hadi al-Amiri, a former minister of transport with close ties to Iran who became a senior commander of paramilitary fighters in the fight against the Islamic State extremist group.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi performed poorly across majority Shiite provinces that should have been his base of support.

The announcement came just over 24 hours after polls closed across the country amid record low voter turnout. It included full returns from only 10 of the country's 19 provinces, including the provinces of Baghdad and Basra.

Members of the national election commission read out vote tallies for each candidate list in each of the 10 provinces on national TV. By the end of the announcement, al-Sadr's list had the highest popular vote, followed by al-Amiri's.

Seats in parliament will be allocated proportionately to coalitions once all votes are counted. The commission gave no indication on when further results would be announced.

Celebrations erupted in Baghdad's Sadr City, an impoverished quarter that is home to some 3 million people and is named after the cleric's late father, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadq al-Sadr. The younger al-Sadr campaigned on a cross-sectarian platform of fighting corruption and investing in services and struck a surprising alliance with the Communist Party in the capital.

The strong showing could be a testament to al-Sadr's loyal base of followers he maintains who cast their ballots despite a general mood of apathy that kept many Iraqis away from the polls. Al-Sadr commanded fighters in the war against the IS group and headed a powerful militia that fought U.S. forces in Iraq prior to 2011, but his 2018 campaign focused on social issues and eliminating government corruption.

Al-Abadi sought to retain his post as prime minister after overseeing the military defeat of the IS movement, but faced stiff competition from his predecessor, Nouri al-Maliki, as well as al-Sadr and the Fatah alliance of candidates with paramilitary ties.

Many of the candidates on Fatah were militia commanders before they cut their official ties with the force in order to seek office.

Fatah's strong result will be seen as a victory for Iran as it seeks to protect its interests in the Iraq, including the militias it finances and has sometimes directed to fight alongside its forces in Syria. Al-Sadr is a staunch foe of Iranian and American influence in Iraqi politics.

The elections held Saturday were the first since Iraq declared victory over Islamic State fighters and the fourth since the 2003 U.S.-led toppling of Saddam Hussein. Officials said turnout was only 44 percent, the lowest ever since Saddam's ouster.

Focus

Moon shines as he drives diplomacy with North Korea

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—To his supporters, South Korean President Moon Jae-in is a master negotiator who's fixing decades of bad nuclear diplomacy with North Korea. To his critics, he's falling prey to the same old trap that has claimed previous South Korean presidents—but with an important difference: This time the stakes are much higher.

Whoever's right, it's hard to ignore Moon's role as the architect behind a new global push to settle the nuclear standoff with the North. The outcome of his efforts may hinge on a meeting in Singapore next month between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, who spent months contemplating military strikes against the North before Moon steered him to the table.

Moon, a soft-spoken liberal, hosted Kim in a summit last month that saw them stride hand-in-hand across the border and pledge the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, an ambitious declaration that was light on specifics.

Moon doesn't have the power to resolve North Korea's weapons programs on his own. But in hustling between Pyongyang and Washington to set up the Kim-Trump summit and offering to broker other meetings with Pyongyang, Moon is fulfilling his promise to push South Korea into the driver's seat in diplomacy with the North.

"South Korea has never had a leader like Moon, who actively embraced a leading role in planning and coordinating a global approach to the North," said Hong Min, a senior analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification. "He managed to convince Washington that Pyongyang would change course after a year of brinkmanship. He convinced Pyongyang he would be able to move Washington."

Despite the dangers—a derailed Trump-Kim summit might revive the animosity that enveloped the peninsula last year—Moon's push has proven wildly popular: A Gallup Korea poll last week measured his approval rating at 83 percent, a striking number in a country deeply divided along ideological and generational lines.

PULLING THE STRINGS

Moon's central presence could be seen Wednesday in a three-way meeting in Tokyo when he got Japan's prime minister and China's premier to issue a joint statement in support of the inter-Korean declaration, which he's looking to sell as a meaningful breakthrough that could create a positive atmosphere for the Kim-Trump meeting.

The recent flurry of diplomatic activity was almost unimaginable for most of last year, when the North ripped off a torrid run of weapons tests, including an underground detonation of a purported thermonuclear warhead and three separate tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles with a range that could strike the continental United States. Kim and Trump exchanged insults and threats of nuclear annihilation, drowning out Moon's repeated calls for diplomacy.

The dynamics shifted after Kim used his New Year's speech to propose talks with the South to reduce animosity. The North then sent hundreds of people to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in the South, including Kim's sister, who conveyed her brother's desire for a summit with Moon. Moon later brokered the meeting between Kim and Trump.

FINDING HIS SPACE

Moon, the son of North Korean war refugees, has vowed to build on the legacies of late liberal Presidents Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun and their so-called "Sunshine Policy," which Moon had a hand in building. Seoul's economic inducements resulted in a temporary rapprochement and two summits with the North in 2000 and 2007 that involved Kim Jong Un's late father, Kim Jong Il. Critics say it gave the North a lifeline as it pursued its nuclear dreams.

Moon says the decade of hard-line conservative policies he ended when elected last year did nothing to stop Pyongyang's weapons advancements. He has balanced his criticism of the North's nuclear program with hints of ambitious economic promises in exchange for a "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization."

While Moon is in a significantly tougher spot than his liberal predecessors, who governed when the North's nuclear threat was nascent, he also has more time—four more years in his term—and political space to assert his voice.

Kim Dae-jung's engagement with North Korea was often a source of discord with the hard-line administration of former President George W. Bush. Disagreements between Washington and Seoul continued during Roh's government, and the Koreas were never able to build on Roh's last-minute summit with Kim Jong Il in 2007.

For all their differences in personality, Moon has been able to maintain a coordinated approach with Trump on North Korea. Moon has so far stayed firm on sanctions, and he offered vocal support to Trump's pressure campaign last year during the North's weapons tests. While reaching out to the North in past months, Moon has credited Trump at every step, even suggesting that he take the Nobel Peace Prize if there's peace in Korea.

"It's not a bad way to approach the North—Moon playing the good cop to Trump's bad cop," said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

WILL KIM DENUKE?

There are doubts about whether Kim will ever agree to fully relinquish the nukes he likely sees as his only guarantee of survival.

Moon has maintained that Kim is genuinely interested in dealing away his nuclear weapons in return for economic benefits. But North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition. The North vows to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its troops from the South and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

Moon may face credibility problems if it becomes clear that Kim won't give up his nukes easily. Seoul could also be pushed aside if Washington chooses to deal more directly with China, the North's only major ally and economic lifeline. Moon has been upstaged by separate summits between Kim and Chinese President Xi Jinping, which were seen as strengthening the positions of both countries ahead of the Kim-Trump talks.

The focus may now shift from Moon to Kim, who some believe may want to drag out negotiations until Trump is replaced by a U.S. president seen as less willing to ponder the use of military force against the North at the risk of triggering war.

Another scenario has Kim seeking a deal where he gives away his ICBMs but retains some of his shorter-range arsenal in return for a reduced U.S. military presence in the South. This could satisfy Trump but undermine the alliance between Washington and Seoul.

AP
In this April 27, 2018 file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in cross the border line at the border village of Panmunjom in Demilitarized Zone. North Korea's release of three American detainees is both hopeful and disheartening for the relatives of hundreds of South Koreans abducted by the North.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2018 Jeep Wrangler rules the off-road world

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TNS

The 2018 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon 4x4 gets muddy at The Cliffs Insane Terrain off-road park in Marseilles, Ill., on April 19, 2018.

If some days are better than others, a day off-roading in a Jeep Wrangler is great. Add some insane terrain, the season's first sunshine, the muddy muck following a Midwestern winter that wouldn't quit and the only thing clearer than this overdue sunny day was why the 2018 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon is one of the most capable off-road vehicles in the world.

Redesigned for the first time in a decade, the 2018 Wrangler JL builds on 77 years of history to make the American icon more accessible to a global audience who want on-road convenience as much as off-road capability. It's working; the brand had a record March, led by a record number of Wranglers sold.

Exterior changes are subtle but significant, including a more raked seven-slotted grille and rounded angles on the roof and hood for improved aerodynamics. The four-door is nearly 4 inches longer and 2.4 inches wider, though the use of lightweight aluminum sheds 200 pounds. Its front doors went on a diet, dropping 17 pounds (down to about 45) so one person can more easily take them off.

Three new powertrains also usher the Wrangler into a more fuel-efficient era, including a 2-liter turbocharged four-cylinder mild hybrid with a 48-volt battery. Don't worry, purists: the 270-horsepower turbo with the new eight-speed automatic churns out 295-pound-feet of torque, which is better than the 260 pound-feet of torque in the returning V-6 Pentastar engine. The Pentastar has start/stop technology to conserve fuel while idling, helping it get 20 mpg combined, which is 2 mpg better than its predecessor. A diesel V-6 is due in 2019.

Everything about the new Wrangler is more efficient, including the time it takes to transition the all-weather all-terrain SUV into a summer beach crawler. The front windshield folds down with four bolts instead of 28 on the outgoing JK model, so it'll only take a half hour instead of a half day to get wind in your face and bugs in your teeth. There are too many roof combinations to count, but highlights include the three-piece Freedom hard top ($1,095) with two distinct panels over the driver and passenger. Flip the four latches and pop it off in seconds so a bald driver can stay covered while a sunbathing passenger can get baked. The Sky One-Touch ($3,995) soft top retreats by the push of a button in 18 seconds at vehicle speeds up to 60 mph.

Despite such creature comforts, including a customizable info cluster, soft-touch trim, push-button starter, 8.4-inch touch screen with Uconnect (one of the better infotainment systems on the market) with Apple CarPlay or Android Auto, and over 75 advanced driver assistance systems, the Wrangler JL is at heart a mind-blowing beast in all terrain.

We followed the pros from Jeep Jamboree in the redesigned 2018 Wrangler Rubicon four-door up hills, down dales, through creeks, over rocks, articulating, crawling, crabbing, scrambling, fording, bouldering, and otherwise overcoming The Cliffs Insane Terrain Off-Road Park in Marseilles, Ill.

What a blast.

New for 2018, Rubicon comes with 33-inch tires (instead of 32-inch tires in the outgoing model), and the fenders are raised to fit 35-inch tires without needing a lift. Those tires, along with a ground clearance of 10.9 inches, let us drive through a swift-but-shallow spring creek strewn with rocks. It wasn't nearly as deep as the 30 inches of water passable in the new Wrangler, according to Jeep. The crossing was more a cleaning of the four skid plates about to get used and abused.

We splashed through giant standing puddles imprinted by something out of Jurassic Park before our roughly 30-degree ascent up a deeply rutted slope banked by trees.

Thanks to Rubicon's carryover Rock-Trac system and new electronically disconnecting sway bar, we clambered in and out of those ruts, spitting mud on the Jeep behind us in what felt like nothing more than a broad-shouldered shrug. The sway bar is important for two reasons: It's so much easier to push a button than to disconnect it yourself, and it limits body roll when on the road.

Next came the boulders and rocks. As cool as it was to conquer behind the wheel, it was even more impressive to witness from the outside how each wheel did its own thing. Staying in 4-Low provides a 4:1 crawl ratio, which is a sweet spot of rock-crawling capability in the off-road world. Adding front and rear locking differentials, Rubicon crawls like a spider, each wheel working independently to maximize grip and get purchase over the next obstacle.

But tires and driver ability make a difference, lest it be mistaken that anyone can hop into a Jeep and blaze their own path. One driver new to such off-road muck got stuck in a Sahara with all-season tires. Another Jeep with a winch and some pros with a clever pulley system got it free, though, and we were back off track.

The Rubicon V-6 with the eight-speed automatic ($2,000) was easy to operate, but the standard six-speed manual just felt right. Given the technical difficulty of the 20-minute loop, there was some apprehension shifting gears while mucking about. But in 4L, there isn't much need to grind 'em till you find 'em. We used third on the flatter spots at 10 mph, and waited in first for the caravan to catch up, but for the creek crossings, bouldering and ascents, we stayed in second. Crawling at 2 mph can be done in second gear without pressing the clutch. Having the shifter in hand and both feet on the pedals while scrambling over land feels right, all tactile and tough, as if you're doing some of the work. But you're not, not really. It's all Jeep, all the time, as it's been for over three quarters of a century.

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon at a glance

- Vehicle type: A true SUV
- Base price: $40,495
- As tested: $52,005 (excluding $1,195 destination)
- Mpg: 18 city, 23 highway
- Engine: 3.6-liter V-6 Pentastar
- Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
- Parting shot: One tough mudder.

MOTORMOUTH: How could a newer car fail emissions testing?

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: My 2014 Honda Accord tested "not ready" when I went in for emission testing. I was told to go out and drive around for a week and come back. I did; same result. The dealer said drive 100 miles between 45 and 50 mph. I did the best I could and the car passed the next test. The problem was called "drive cycle." What is it? If it is common enough to have a name, why can't the equipment be set to test those cars?

— M.S., Evanston, Ill.

A: Did you get a "check engine" light recently? Did you have a repair made? Did somebody replace the battery? If so, the engine control module's memory needed to be cleared. Although most codes are deleted right after the repair, others wait to clear until certain criteria are met. The onboard diagnostic system, or OBD, continuously monitors the emission controls, but some emission controls will not clear the readiness monitors until the car goes through an OBD drive cycle. Part of that cycle includes driving the car below 55 mph for at least three minutes and then allowing it to slow down below 30 mph without using the brakes. Then you have to speed back up to between 55-60 mph and hold the throttle steady for five minutes before allowing the car to slow down, again without braking. In other words, drive your car the way most people do. The emissions center test equipment cannot do this for you.

Q: Regarding C.Q. from Flourtown, Pa., about vibrating brakes, I completely agree with your diagnosis of warped rotors. However, when I worked at the local Cadillac dealer, around 1996 we started having similar problems with the DeVille series with lower mileage, usually city driven. What we found was the rear rotors were rusting where the pads rested for a long time. This would usually cause the vibration at higher speeds, but not at lower speeds. Machining the rotors would only correct the problem temporarily. I felt it was a defect in the metal composition. Replacing the rotors was the only sure cure.

— R.R., Evergreen Park, Ill.

A: Thanks for checking in. It is not unusual for rotors to rust while a car sits, especially in wet conditions. It's more common near ocean spray. The brakes will usually vibrate until the surface rust is worn off from several brake applications. We were not aware of a metallurgical problem.

Q: Many cars now have very dark tinted driver and passenger side windows, making it hard to see the occupants from the outside, which makes it difficult to tell whether they are seeing me when I am driving or crossing an intersection by foot. I thought it was illegal to be driving around with such windows.

— D.M., Chicago

A: Window tint can help keep the interior cooler, reduce damage to upholstery, cut down on UV rays and look cool. Benefits? Yes, but there are drawbacks for both you (as you stated) and law enforcement officers. There is no federal code regarding tint. Each state dictates the amount of tint, and on which windows it is legal. Tint limits range from zero in New Jersey to 70 percent in California.

Life & Style

With exposes, book and TV deals, Farrow on run of a lifetime

Perhaps the least surprising aspect of The New Yorker magazine's story on abuse allegations against New York's attorney general last week was Ronan Farrow's name on it as one of the authors.

Farrow has been on a head-spinning run that started in October with an expose on movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, for which he shared a Pulitzer Prize with Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey of The New York Times.

Farrow

The 30-year-old journalist has since written about Israeli operatives collecting information on former Obama aides, the National Enquirer buying stories to keep them quiet, a Playboy model's story of an affair with President Donald Trump and Weinstein's intricate efforts to conceal his behavior.

He also just released a book on international diplomacy and Rex Tillerson's tenure at the State Department. On Friday, Little, Brown and Co. announced it would publish "Catch and Kill," about efforts to silence women who accuse powerful men of sexual misconduct.

Eric Schneiderman, the attorney general accused of physically and verbally abusing former girlfriends, announced his resignation less than four hours after The New Yorker posted the story, which Farrow co-wrote with investigative reporter Jane Mayer.

"You could say he has a bright future in journalism," deadpanned Bill Grueskin, a veteran editor and Columbia University professor.

Appropriately, the son of actress Mia Farrow and his estranged father, Woody Allen, has a story Hollywood would love, complete with rising from a point where he questioned his career and the investigation that earned him a Pulitzer. (Farrow has not reported on his sister Dylan's allegations that Allen molested her—which he has denied—but said he's proud of her for making them).

Ronan Farrow's book to continue sexual misconduct reporting

NEW YORK (AP)—Ronan Farrow will expand on his award-winning investigative reporting on the sexual misconduct of powerful men and the systems in place to keep victims quiet in a new book called "Catch and Kill."

Publisher Reagan Arthur says that Little, Brown and Company has acquired the book for publication.

In a press release Saturday, Arthur says that "some of the most astonishing disclosures about what he uncovered are still to come." The book promises original reporting and "stunning revelations" about how far private investigators, former spies and lawyers go to silence victims.

Farrow's year-long investigation of Harvey Weinstein and his subsequent pieces in The New Yorker helped spark a national conversation about sexual misconduct. He has also reported on President Donald Trump and former Attorney General of New York, Eric Schneiderman.

Farrow was a boy wonder even before getting into journalism. The future Rhodes Scholar and Yale Law School graduate finished Bard College at age 15. He worked for the U.S. state department in the Obama administration and in Nigeria for UNICEF.

"I wound up in situations through my work in advocacy and government where I was seeing stories play out that I thought needed telling, sometimes in tough places where press access was constrained, like Darfur," Farrow explained his turn to journalism, in an email interview with The Associated Press while traveling in Europe last week. "Writing about it was just about the only thing I could do."

Print stories led to television work, where Farrow's articulateness and good looks didn't hurt. MSNBC gave him a daytime show, torpedoed by low ratings after a year. Farrow remained at NBC News as a reporter and began working on the Weinstein story.

The story matched his skills and persistence, said New Yorker Editor David Remnick.

"The heroic figures in these stories are not Ronan Farrow or Jane Mayer or Jodi Kantor or Megan Twohey," he said. "It's the people who put themselves on the line to speak truthfully about what has been so hidden and secretive, and that takes immense courage on their part and, on the part of the reporters, real patience and empathy of the kind that you don't really need when you're doing crime reporting or political reporting."

How the Weinstein story wound up at The New Yorker and not on NBC is a well-publicized, if not fully understood story. NBC said that after much work, Farrow's story still wasn't ready for air.

What's murky is why he didn't continue working on it for NBC. NBC noted that he did not have an exclusive contract. Farrow hasn't discussed this in detail, although he plans to in his new book.

Farrow was introduced to Remnick by Ken Auletta, the veteran New Yorker writer who previously tried to crack the Weinstein story and had talked to Farrow about that experience. Remnick said he initially was skeptical, but saw Farrow had the makings of a good piece. He kept him working on it; the magazine was fueled by competition with the Times, which he also knew was on to the story.

Farrow talked in a commencement address at Loyola Marymount University earlier this month of a low point where "I had spent a year in rooms with executives telling me it wasn't a story."

He recalled a phone conversation with "my poor, long-suffering partner.

"I remember saying, 'I swung too wide, I gambled too much, I lost everything and no one will even know,'" he told the college graduates.

Remnick's interest provided a much-needed boost in confidence. He said he remembers as a young reporter how getting encouraging words from some veteran, legendary journalists indicated he was on the right track and that they had his back.

"That means a lot to a reporter," Remnick said. "If you don't have it, you feel at sea." ***(AP)***

Why Rihanna got a criminal sense of deja vu at Met Gala

NEW YORK (AP)—When Rihanna attended this week's glitzy Met Gala, she was actually returning to the scene of the crime.

The Grammy-winning singer had earlier shot a spinoff of the "Oceans" film franchise that centers on a heist at the annual Met Gala.

Rihanna

The memory was particularly amusing for Rihanna, who attended the real gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Monday dripping in pearls and crystals in a Maison Margiela by John Galliano mini-dress, ornate robe and beaded papal headgear.

"I've been to the Met Gala so many times, so every time we talk about the Met Gala it was quite a bit of humor for me. But it was also really nice to shoot a scene in the actual Met museum. So you'll see that this summer," Rihanna said Thursday.

"Ocean's 8," starring Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Helena Bonham Carter, Sarah Paulson and Mindy Kaling, comes out June 8.

She may have been wearing expensive clothes at the gala, but the Barbados-born Rihanna is these days celebrating the launch of her new lingerie line, Savage X Fenty.

"Savage was such a natural outlet for me because I enjoy lingerie. I'm a woman. I like to have fun. And coming from my culture we love to express our freedom and embrace our bodies, and there's such a thing about that that's still in me," she said.

The line, which takes its name from Rihanna's last name Fenty and debuts Friday, is available with an extensive range of sizes from XS to 3XL, and bras from 32A up to 44D. The lingerie is also affordable, which is important to her.

"When it when you see a bra that's $300, it kind of hurts you because, as much as you love it, you're thinking if that's just the bra then I can't get the panty. Then you have to choose. It deters you from buying it because you want to have both. You want to have both," she said.

"Women really come in so many different shapes sizes that it's such a beautiful thing. You want everyone to feel like they have something for them," Rihanna said.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of His New Life

†LUIS PANGELINAN AGULTO

Born To Life: November 14, 1965 Called To Eternal Life: May 11, 2018

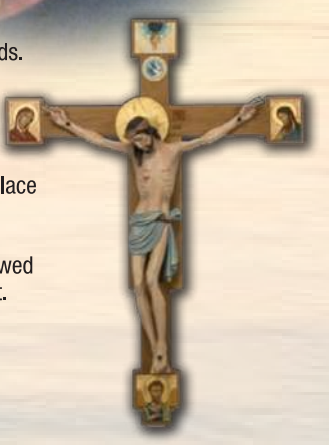
In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents:	†Jose Cepeda Agulto/ †Carmen Pangelinan Agulto
Sister:	†Ana P. Aldan
Brother-in-law:	†Jesus R. Tenorio
Sister-in-law:	†Magarita R. Agulto

His memories will always live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Lolita R. Agulto
Children:	Augusto R. Salas Jr. / Lorraine R. Catienza (Aiden John and Alina Jane)
	Alvin R. Salas / Stella Salas
	Albert R. Salas / Clareth Joyce Castro
Reared Granddaughter:	Ericka Angel M. Santiago
Siblings:	Josephine P. Tenorio & Family
	Vicente P. / Feng Yua Agulto & Family
	Antonia A. / Vicente C. Aldan & Family
	Ramona Margarita A. / Jose H. Borja & Family
	Ramon P. / Dalia R. Agulto & Family
	Virginia A. / Jose C. Dela Cruz & Family

He will also be missed by his numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



Daily Mass of intention for the repose of his soul is being offered at 6:00 pm on weekdays and 6:00 am on weekends at St. Jude Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018. Responso and Holy Rosary will take place at 7:00 am at the Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by Internment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetary where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank you

The Family

Israelis go wild after Eurovision Song Contest victory

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Thousands of Israelis took to the streets early Sunday to celebrate their country's victory in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Fans flooded Tel Aviv's Rabin Square in front of City Hall, with some euphorically jumping into a public fountain, after Netta Barzilai was announced the winner in Portugal with her techno dance tune "Toy." The City Hall building was lit up to spell "Toy" and electronic signs throughout the city congratulated her.

The 25-year-old Barzilai, popularly known by her first name, has become a sensation in Israel thanks to her oozing confidence, charisma and spastic performances, which include a clucking sound like a chicken and barely decipherable words, as well as the use of a looping machine and synthesizer.

The win—Israel's first since 1998 and fourth overall—means it will host next year's contest.

Here's a look at what the win in the hugely popular song contest means for Israel:

NATIONAL PRIDE

In a country with a perpetual sense of siege, Israel tends to go gaga over any international success that reinforces its image of itself as a normal country.

Even minor sporting and cultural achievements are disproportionately celebrated, and the Eurovision is regarded as the crown jewel of them all. Many Israelis see it as proof that the Jewish state can overcome those seeking to boycott it over its treatment of the Palestinians.

"Hallelujah" became the country's unofficial national song after it won the contest for Israel when it hosted the event in the late 1970s, and Dana International became a national hero and global transgender icon when she won with "Diva" in 1998.

This year's contest smashed overnight TV ratings records, and Netta fielded congratulatory phone calls from the nation's leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called her Israel's "greatest ambassador."

"It's a moment of joy that makes everybody together, it's a consensus," said Izhar Cohen, who won Israel's first Eurovision crown 40 years ago. "Because we are separated with so many views and political sides and all that, this contest made us one country, one people and I'm so happy for that."

NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM

The prospect of Israel hosting next year's contest in Jerusalem shines a spotlight on the contested city just as Israel marks the annual Jerusalem Day, the anniversary of what it refers to as the city's "unification" following the 1967 war, and a day before the United States is set to officially open its embassy in the city.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Mideast war. It later annexed the eastern sector in a move not recognized internationally. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, a position with wide international backing.

When the Eurovision hosts turned to each country to hear their votes, Jerusalem was the only capital city not mentioned by name. As she picked up her award, Netta shouted to the audience "I love my country. Next time in Jerusalem!" There will be no escaping the issue next year unless the competition's rabid fans in coastal Tel Aviv get their way and manage to host it instead.

Netta from Israel celebrates after winning the Eurovision Song Contest grand final in Lisbon, Portugal, Saturday, May 12, 2018. AP

GOOD TIMES IN ISRAEL

The Eurovision win comes as Israel is enjoying an unparalleled grace period. It just concluded a successful hosting of the start of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, the first Grand Tour event ever held outside Europe. The government is also relishing in Trump's warm embrace, his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and his nullifying of the nuclear deal with Israel's arch-enemy Iran.

Netanyahu chose to open his weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday by noting Netta's win. "These days Jerusalem is being blessed with many gifts. We received another one last night with Netta's thrilling and suspenseful victory," he said. "The gift is that the Eurovision will come to Jerusalem next year."

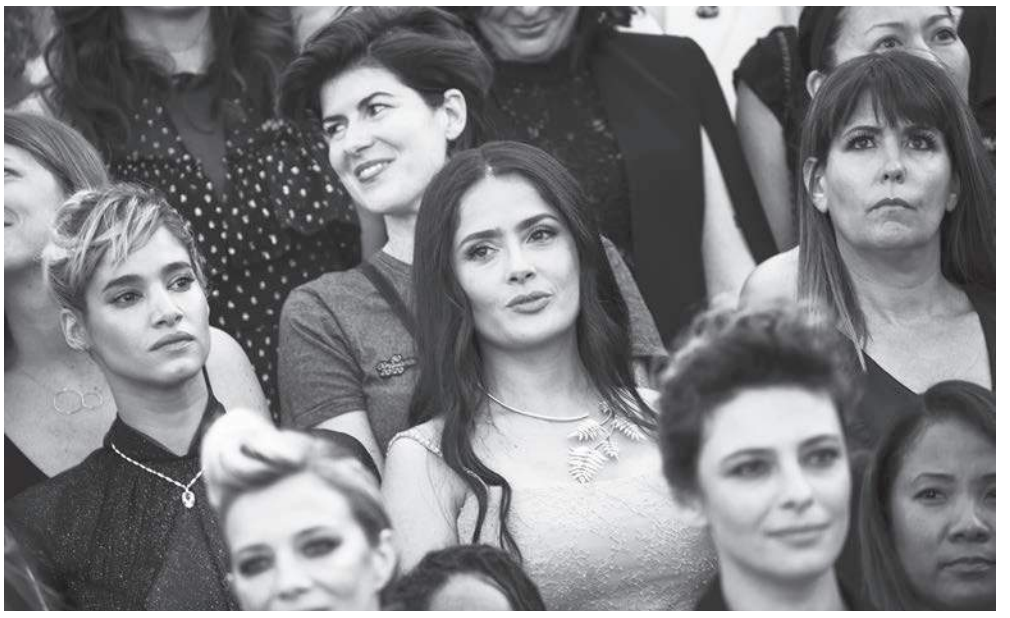
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The winning song's main chorus is "I'm not your toy, You stupid boy, I'll take you down." Netta has referred to it as a song about women's empowerment, and the message seems to have resonated with fans—the song racked up more than 20 million views on Eurovision's YouTube channel even before Saturday night's event.

Netta's physical appearance has upended traditional notions of what it takes to be a female pop star, and she has become a model for plus-size women. She has been unapologetic about her weight, the loud colors she wears and the funky chicken moves that have become her trademark.

On Saturday night, she won out over a sultry, hip-shaking pop star from Cyprus who wore a glittering outfit that bared her navel and flat stomach.

"Thank you so much for choosing different. Thank you so much for accepting the differences between us. Thank you for celebrating diversity," Netta said in her victory speech.



Sofia Boutella, from center left, Salma Hayek and Patty Jenkins stand as part of 82 film industry professionals on the steps of the Palais des Festivals to represent, what they describe as pervasive gender inequality in the film industry, at the 71st international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 12, 2018. AP

Salma Hayek after Cannes protest: Change already happening

CANNES, France (AP)—A day after joining more than 80 women protest at the Cannes Film Festival, Salma Hayek said Sunday that change for women in Hollywood already is happening.

In a conversation that was part of the "Women in Motion" talk series at Cannes, Hayek said her production company is having trouble keeping up with the demand for female writers and directors. The actress-producer said she has sold four TV shows about women this year.

"I can't find enough female writers and directors," Hayek said. "They're all busy. The change already happened."

Hayek said much work still needs to be done, particularly on the issue of equal pay. The 51-year-old actress said she hasn't been insisting on equal pay yet because male stars and producers still need to adjust.

But she repeatedly spoke positively about progress behind the camera.

"Maybe you don't see the difference in the numbers, but it just happened this year," Hayek said. "It worked. And I think we should enjoy it."

Hayek also remarked on her allegation of sexual harassment against movie mogul Harvey Weinstein in an op-ed in December. Weinstein at the time issued a lengthy statement of denial. Hayek said Weinstein specifically contested her claim and that of Lupita Nyong'o because they're women of color.

"It was a strategy by the lawyers, because we are the easiest to get discredited," Hayek said. "It is a well-known fact, if you are a woman of color, people believe what you say less. So he went attacking the two women of color, in hopes that if he could discredit us, he could then maybe discredit the rest."

In the wake of the scandals that have followed Weinstein's downfall, Hayek said men in Hollywood "are terrified" and that "predators are hiding." But she said the #MeToo movement also is a great time for men "to rethink what it means to be a man."

"This is a new era for men," Hayek said.

'Avengers' overpowers box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Avengers: Infinity War" is still ruling the box office in its third weekend in theaters, easily beating out the mom-themed fare.

The Walt Disney Studios on Sunday estimates that "Infinity War" has added $61.8 million from North American theaters bringing its total domestic earnings to $547.8 million. Globally the film has now grossed over $1.6 billion— $200 million of which was from its massive opening in China this weekend. It's now the fifth highest grossing film of all time worldwide.

The superhero blockbuster overpowered newcomers like the Melissa McCarthy comedy "Life of the Party" and the Gabrielle Union thriller "Breaking In," both of which were strategically timed to debut on Mother's Day weekend. Both films drew overwhelmingly female audiences, too.

In a distant second, "Life of the Party" earned an estimated $18.5 million, which is a few million short of some of McCarthy's other comedy collaborations with husband Ben Falcone like "Tammy" and "The Boss." It also got similarly mixed reviews from critics. The Warner Bros. release stars McCarthy as a woman who decides to go back to college with her daughter.

The studio is "thrilled" with the results.

"It's escapist movie palace fare," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution.

The modestly budgeted "Breaking In" took third place with $16.5 million, over-performing most industry expectations despite lackluster reviews. The film stars Union as a mom who has to fight to save her kids from a group of home invaders.

1. "**Avengers: Infinity War**," $61.8 million ($281.3 million international).
2. "**Life of the Party**," $18.5 million ($2.9 million international).
3. "**Breaking In**," $16.5 million ($1 million international).
4. "**Overboard**," $10.1 million ($8.2 million international).
5. "**A Quiet Place**," $6.4 million ($2.8 million international).
6. "**I Feel Pretty**," $3.7 million ($3.5 million international).
7. "**Rampage**," $3.4 million ($6.4 million international).
8. "**Tully**," $2.2 million.
9. "**Black Panther**," $1.9 million.
10. "**Blockers**," $1.1 million ($1.2 million international).

"It's an edge-of-the-seat thriller that you may not always associate with Mother's Day, but it worked extraordinarily well," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic theatrical distribution.

The Universal Pictures release is just the latest in a long string of successful collaborations with producer Will Packer, who also produced "Girl's Trip" and the "Ride Along" films.

"We have a great partner in Will Packer and 'Breaking In' is another example of his very talented approach and our mutual success," Orr said.

Also benefiting from the Mother's Day timing was "Overboard," which earned $10.1 million to take fourth place, down only 31 percent from its debut last weekend. And rounding out the top five was "A Quiet Place" with $6.4 million. The John Krasinski-directed thriller has now earned $169.6 million domestically.

"This is a typical Mother's Day weekend with a big blockbuster in the mix and some counter programming thrown in for good measure as we await the arrival of 'Deadpool 2' next week," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Because of the massive success of "Infinity War," the box office is up 4.9 percent for the year, and a slew of blockbusters coming up are hoping to continue the success, including "Deadpool 2" and "Solo: A Star Wars Story" just one week later.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

R. Kelly won't be promoted by Pandora anymore, either

By PETER SBLENDORIO
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Another prominent music provider is distancing itself from R. Kelly.

Pandora is no longer promoting the scandal-plagued R&B singer's music following numerous alarming allegations against him. The news—first reported by The Blast—comes a day after Spotify announced it is removing Kelly's songs from its recommendation algorithm, as well as all playlists owned and operated by the streaming service.

"Pandora's policy is to not actively promote artists with certain demonstrable behavioral, ethical or criminal issues," a rep for Pandora said in a statement, without specifically naming R. Kelly.

"We approach each of these scenarios on a case-by-case basis to ensure we address components true to Pandora's principles while not overreaching and avoiding censorship."

The move means Kelly won't appear on any new curated playlists by Pandora, nor will he be featured at events or in social media posts or other marketing tools for the company. The music company has been working on its policy regarding artists with behavior they deem unacceptable for several months.

Kelly's music remains available on Pandora for people who seek it out.

A rep for Kelly did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but his management team condemned Spotify on Thursday for its decision to stop promoting the 51-year-old singer's music.

"Spotify has the right to promote whatever music it chooses, and in this case its actions are without merit, a portion of the statement reads. It is acting based on false and unproven allegations. It is bowing to social-media fads and picking sides in a fame-seeking dispute over matters that have nothing to do with serving customers. "

Multiple women have come forward in recent months with alarming accusations against Kelly, including the parents of Joycelyn Savage sharing their fears that their daughter, who is dating the singer, has been "brainwashed" by him and is living in a situation they've described as a "cult."

Another woman, Lizzette Martinez, told Buzzfeed last week that she had sex with Kelly when she was 17. The age of consent in Florida, where the alleged act took place, is 18.

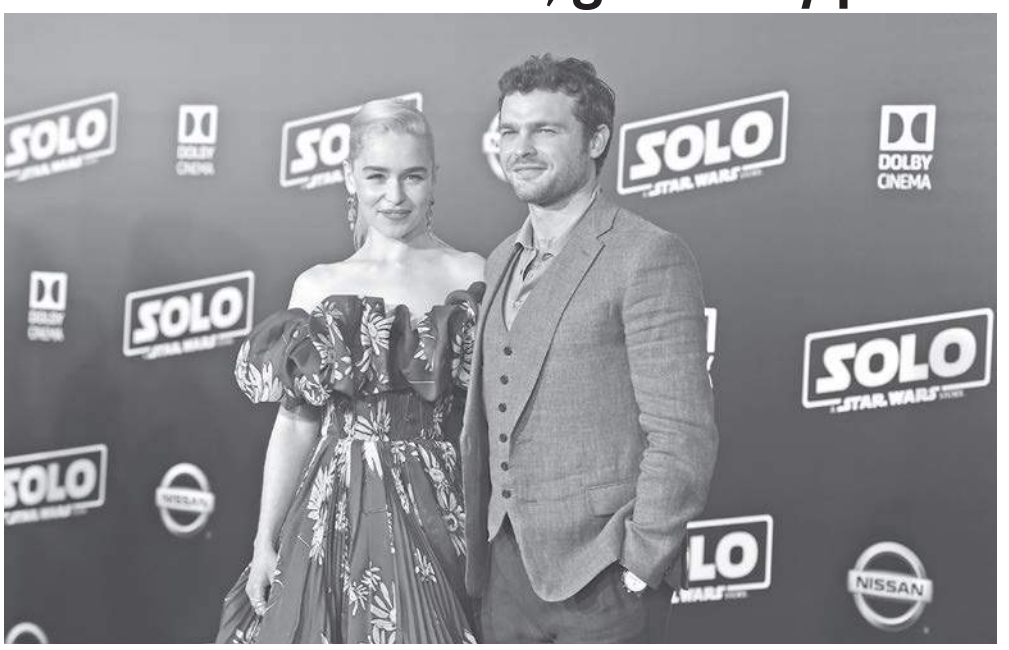
Latest Star Wars film 'Solo' debuts, gets early praise

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood played host Thursday evening to a few more scoundrels than usual for the world premiere of "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

The film tells the story of the early years of smuggler Han Solo, who was played by Harrison Ford in seven movies in the "Star Wars" franchise. The film stars Alden Ehrenreich as Solo and Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian, both actors playing younger versions of the characters made famous by the original "Star Wars" trilogy. "Solo" also features fan favorites Chewbacca and the Millennium Falcon—in its earlier and spiffier days before being introduced as a grimy, albeit fast, hunk of junk in the original "Star Wars" film.

Solo is one of the franchise's most popular characters. Ford's portrayal of the gruff smuggler in the original "Star Wars" catapulted him to stardom and has become one of the characters most closely associated with the actor.

Initial reactions online after the premiere were positive, praising Ehrenreich and Glover and the film's space heist action sequences. Full reviews won't be released until Tuesday.



AP

Emilia Clarke, left, and Alden Ehrenreich arrive at the premiere of "Solo: A Star Wars Story" at El Capitan Theatre on Thursday, May 10, 2018, in Los Angeles.

For the premiere, Disney built a giant replica of the Falcon on Hollywood Boulevard. Glover was seen posing underneath the giant prop. "Solo" will be released May 25.

The film is the second stand-alone film set in the "Star Wars" universe. "Rogue One," released in 2016, told the story of the theft of plans for the superweapon the Death Star, which was destroyed at the end of the 1977 film that made Star Wars into a global sensation.

Disney has become known for its elaborate premieres for its "Star Wars" films. It placed an X-Wing replica on Hollywood Boulevard for "Rogue One," and a simultaneous debut at several Hollywood theaters for 2015's "The Force Awakens," which was the return of Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill to the franchise after a 30-year hiatus.

Snoopy joining Sony? Music unit buying stake in Peanuts

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese electronics maker Sony Corp.'s music unit is buying a stake in Peanuts Holdings, the company behind Snoopy and Charlie Brown.

Sony Music Entertainment said Monday it signed a deal with DHX Media, based in Nova Scotia, Canada, to acquire 49 percent of the 80 percent stake DHX holds in Peanuts.

Under the deal, Sony Music will own 39 percent and DHX 41 percent. Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, will continue to own 20 percent of Peanuts. The parties hope to complete the acquisition on or about June 30, according to Tokyo-based Sony.

Sony said it sees Peanuts as "world-class," and hopes to use its character business expertise to strengthen the brand.

Sony has under its wing a range of characters, including those from its PlayStation video games.

Body in Scotland is missing Frightened Rabbit singer

LONDON (AP) — Police confirmed Friday that a body discovered at a Scottish marina is that of Scott Hutchison, the singer of indie rock band Frightened Rabbit.

Hutchison, 36, was reported missing Wednesday after leaving a hotel in South Queensferry, near Edinburgh. Police Scotland said his body was found Thursday evening at the nearby Port Edgar marina and his family was informed.

Police did not disclose the cause of his death.

Hutchison, however, had spoken about his struggles with depression, and after his disappearance his family said they worried he was in a "fragile state." Hutchison sent tweets late Tuesday saying "Please hug your loved ones" and "I'm away now. Thanks."

Frightened Rabbit was founded by Hutchison and his drummer brother Grant more than a decade ago and has released several albums.

In a statement, Hutchison's relatives said they were "utterly devastated" at the loss of the "passionate, articulate and charismatic" singer.

"Despite his disappearance, and the recent concerns over his mental health, we had all remained positive and hopeful that he would walk back through the door, having taken some time away to compose himself," the family said.

Other Scottish musicians also paid tribute to Hutchison.

Alex Kapranos of Franz Ferdinand tweeted: "Awful news about Scott Hutchison. A terrible loss." Stuart Murdoch of the band Belle and Sebastian posted that "the whole music community in Scotland was praying for a different outcome."

Mom is desperate to stop teen's violent outbursts

DEAR ABBY: I'm a mother of two boys, 13 and 12. My oldest son has become very abusive, both physically and emotionally. He has been arrested for hitting me and hitting his little brother. He was recently kicked off the bus for hitting another student and has also been locked out of school.

I have tried therapy and medications for him, but he hasn't changed. I'm at my wits' end, ready to give up and hand him over to the court. He has both parents and a loving home. I don't know what to do anymore. I love my son, but can no longer do this. Please tell me how to help him!

LOVING MOTHER IN TENNESSEE

DEAR LOVING MOTHER: Much information is missing from your letter. What triggers your son's violent episodes? Could he have a learning disability? Is he being teased or bullied, which might explain why he hit another student? Has he been ill, or could he have sensory integration difficulties?

At 13, it's too soon to throw up your hands and give up. Because therapy and medication haven't helped your son, I would have to ask what kind of therapist has been seeing him. When treatment doesn't work, a patient may need a more comprehensive assessment—a second opinion or even a third. My suggestion would be to take him to a teaching hospital. And while you're there, please consider asking about some support for yourself because you have a lot on your shoulders.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my late 30s and moved away from my parents when I was 17. My husband doesn't make a lot of money, but he gives me his whole paycheck for the household expenses every week. Because we live paycheck to paycheck, we rarely have much money left at the end of the month. But we make it.

The issue is my parents. They are retired now and received a nice inheritance when my grandparents passed. They used the money to pay off every debt they had, and now they won't stop telling me how to save money or how to spend it. Now that they're financially stable, they seem to have forgotten they lived paycheck to paycheck when they were my age. I rarely speak to them anymore because of it.

How can I get them to back off without starting a war? They're retired and bored, and they love drama. The slightest thing starts a battle they drag other family into.

PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK IN OHIO

DEAR PAYCHECK: That your parents feel the need to enlist the support of other relatives in their arguments with you is wrong. All they have managed to accomplish is to put you on the defensive. However, has it not occurred to you that they're dispensing financial advice because they are hoping to help you avoid some of the mistakes THEY made before they received that windfall?

Listen politely, thank them for caring, discuss it with your husband, and decide if some of it applies in your situation. Then keep what you can use and discard the rest.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

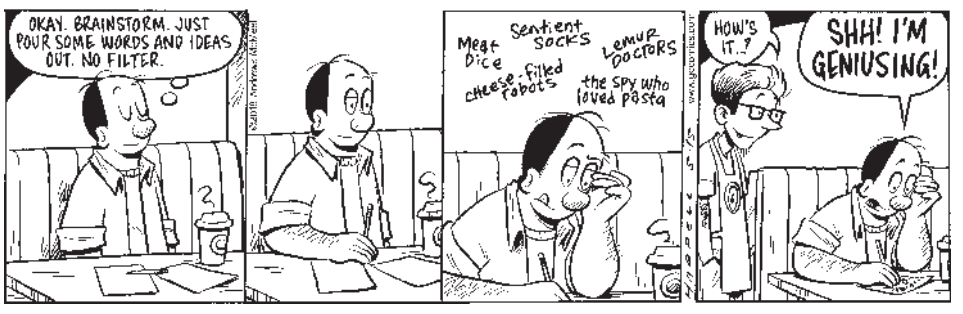
GEEZ, I CAN'T BELIEVE I BROKE DAD'S BINOCULARS! HE'LL BLOW EVERY CAPILLARY IN HIS BODY!
DAD SAID I HAD TO BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL WITH THEM, AND WHAT DO I DO? I GO AND BREAK THEM. HE'LL FLAY ME ALIVE!
HOW DID YOU DO IT, ANYWAY?
I JUST DROPPED THEM.
AND THEY BROKE?
WELL, I WAS TOSSING THEM TO MYSELF AT THE TIME, AS I RAN DOWN THE SIDEWALK.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I OPENED MY OWN AMAZON PRIME ACCOUNT.
NOW I CAN GET THINGS WITH ONLY TWO-DAY SHIPPING!
IS IT REALLY HARD TO WAIT THREE DAYS FOR A SQUEAKY BALL?
MAYBE I'LL PAY EXTRA FOR OVERNIGHT DELIVERY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

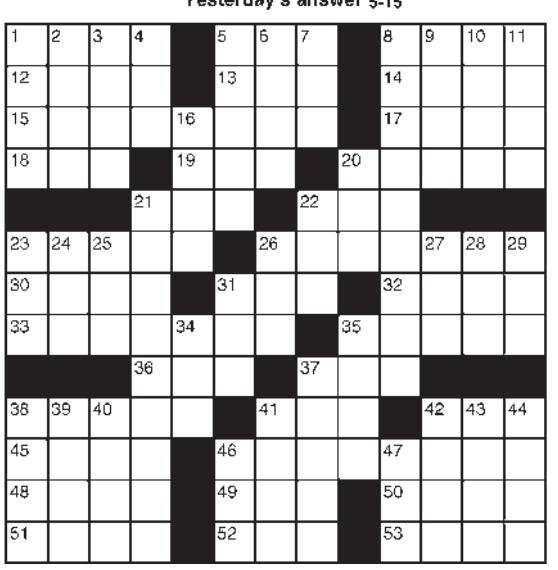
ACROSS
1 Mimicked
5 Prof's degree
8 Sultry Horne
12 Theater box
13 Brit's restroom
14 On the rocks
15 Goblins
17 Walked (on)
18 MGM motto start
19 Can material
20 Dazzles
21 Painter Vermeer
22 Chart format
23 On the up and up
26 Happening on 12/31
30 Skip
31 Saloon
32 Eric of "Troy"
33 Like pound cake
35 All better
36 Punk-rock subgenre
37 Glutton
38 Pointy
41 Cacophony
42 Muppet eagle
45 Branch
46 Inferior booze
48 Slugger Moises
49 La-la lead-in
50 Move like a butterfly
51 McEnroe's rival
52 Ninny
53 Shoppe description

DOWN
1 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
2 Serve tea
3 Early birds?
4 Society newbie
5 Unadorned
6 Honker
7 Two, in Toledo
8 One who ignores trash cans
9 Beige
10 Very bright
11 Tosses in
16 Coup d' —
20 "Chandelier" singer
21 Jazzy two-step
22 Part of MPH
23 Arcing tennis shot
24 Outback bird
25 "Shoo!"
26 "Rah!"
27 Corn serving
28 Away from SSW
29 June honoree
31 Buddy
34 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
35 Pt. of speech
37 Peak periods
38 Thick chunk
39 Hawaiian city
40 Latin love
41 Pairs
42 Ledge
43 Battery fluid
44 Apportion
46 Fluffy neckpiece
47 Martian mover

Solution time: 22 mins.

T	O	F	■	■	F	S	Q	■	A	C	M	F
A	R	C	H	■	B	■	U	■	S	U	E	S
P	A	H	A	■	B	A	A	■	I	H	A	P
S	I	U	F	P	■	■	I	K	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	D	A	D	■	L	I	M	B	E	R
I	I	S	I	R	U	E	■	H	E	E	S	E
N	I	N	O	■	H	S	I	■	G	A	I	E
C	L	O	C	K	■	C	R	O	C	K	E	D
A	T	W	O	O	D	■	I	V	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	I	R	E	■	A	S	P	I	C
M	O	V	E	■	A	P	P	■	B	O	D	E
A	H	A	B	■	T	E	C	■	Y	E	L	L
P	O	N	Y	■	T	E	A	■	■	M	E	T

Yesterday's answer 5-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alexandra Breckenridge, 36; Jamie-Lynn Sigler, 37; David Krumholtz, 40; Chazz Palminteri, 66.

Happy Birthday: Getting along with others will result in new opportunities that will help stabilize your life. Learn all you can from the experts, and use your skills strategically in order to get ahead. A change in the way you feel about someone you've known for a long time will lead to a personal conclusion that will help you move forward. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 25, 34, 40, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An unexpected change should not be handled poorly. You may not like what's offered, but making a fuss will not help you maintain respect or buy you the time you need to plan your next move. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Share your feelings; be blunt about what you'd like to see happen. Speaking up will help you impress upon others how much the changes you want to make mean to you. Don't hold back; you will gain support and satisfaction. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a look at how you relate to others as well as how you respond and deal with situations that involve personal matters. Question if there are things you can do to improve your life and your relationships. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Work hard, play hard and resolve unfinished business. Handle matters without hesitation; move on to the people and the things you enjoy most. If someone needs a helping hand, do what you can, but not at your expense. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't make matters difficult or let someone else complicate your life. Do what needs to be done and live within your means. Too much of anything will cause emotional or financial problems. Use common sense when working in conjunction with others. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep moving forward regardless of what others do. Make changes that suit your needs and that will position you for future gains. Network, collaborate and be willing to try something new and exciting. A partnership will stimulate your imagination. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Personal change will be the most satisfying. If you try to change someone else, you will end up fighting a losing battle. Do what works best for you, and stop worrying about what you have no control over. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Gravitate toward what interests you most. Learning something new, as long as it doesn't cost you emotionally, physically or financially, will serve you well. Getting together with a friend, relative or lover offering support or guidance will pay off. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* How you deal with relationships will determine your success. Getting along with your peers or someone close to you will be necessary if you want to get ahead. Love and romance are featured and will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Think big but live within your means. If you can look at the big picture and size it down to fit your needs, you will be successful. A change at home will boost your morale and encourage you to spend more time there. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't take on too much or make unnecessary trips. Keep life simple; do not make changes that will affect others. Focus on updating your look and improving your skills. A romantic gesture will improve your attitude and lead to positive lifestyle changes. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take care of your health. Someone will mislead you regarding his or her intent. If you aren't certain, ask questions. Look for an investment or financial opportunity that will raise your standard of living. Reconnect with someone from your past. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are industrious, caring and sensitive. You are practical and patient.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						7		4
			4			8	5	
				5			2	9
	5		8	4				
		4	6		7	1		
				9	1		6	
4	7			1				
	2	6			3			
3		9						

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	3	6	1	5	2	7	8	9
5	8	1	7	9	4	3	6	2
9	7	2	3	8	6	5	1	4
3	5	9	6	7	1	2	4	8
6	2	4	9	3	8	1	7	5
7	1	8	2	4	5	6	9	3
2	6	5	4	1	9	8	3	7
1	9	7	8	2	3	4	5	6
8	4	3	5	6	7	9	2	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BROMANCES **Solution: 9 letters**

E	N	A	E	D	E	N	I	P	A	Y	N	E	R	W
R	G	H	A	N	O	J	N	S	Ⓜ	I	T	H	E	I
I	P	R	C	E	R	A	A	I	I	Ⓞ	O	S	L	L
C	B	I	O	B	K	G	L	Y	T	L	Ⓣ	Z	L	L
R	S	L	T	E	E	A	E	E	M	S	L	Y	I	L
E	I	M	T	T	G	N	L	D	A	M	U	A	T	A
I	R	I	A	S	O	C	Y	R	D	H	I	J	S	U
D	H	G	M	O	E	S	R	K	E	E	C	J	S	G
K	C	E	L	F	F	A	A	U	S	B	Y	I	O	H
I	W	C	I	C	N	H	H	L	I	R	M	N	M	A
L	I	L	B	O	Y	S	C	I	O	S	A	I	A	N
A	L	N	O	M	A	D	A	T	L	G	E	T	T	K
M	S	E	N	A	Z	O	Z	U	U	L	E	L	S	S
A	O	W	D	I	P	V	A	U	G	H	N	L	E	L
S	N	O	L	L	A	F	A	V	R	E	A	U	E	D

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Affleck, Alli, Bets, Bond, Boys, Brad, Cera, Chris, Clooney, Cruise, Damon, Dean, Dele, Dier, Eric, Fallon, Favreau, George, Gimli, Hanks, Hill, Hutch, Jay-Z, Jimmy, Jonah, Justin, Kanye, Laugh, Legolas, Liam, Life, Malik, Matt, Michael, Owen, Payne, Pine, Pitt, Saget, Sam, Smith, Stamos, Starsky, Stiller, Timberlake, Tom, Vaughn, West, Will, Wilson, Zachary, Zayn

Yesterday's Answer: Baroque

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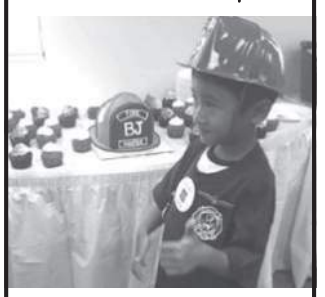

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Opening Date: 05/14/18 **Closing Date: 05/30/18**
JVA#18-001: **Community Projects Coordinator I**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#18-002: **Media Marketing Specialist I**
Location: **Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan**

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Find today's solution in classified section

Simpson spoils Woods' comeback party

FLORIDA (AP)—Starting with the largest Sunday lead ever at The Players Championship was harder than Webb Simpson imagined. Hearing one big roar after another from Tiger Woods playing four groups ahead of him didn't help. Through it all, Simpson managed his game and his nerves.

Only when he had the crystal trophy did he start to crack.

He looked out at his wife, Dowd, a big supporter during the past few years of frustration as Simpson coped with the ban on the anchored putting stroke he used to make two Ryder Cup teams and win the U.S. Open.

And he thought about his mother at home in North Carolina, her first Mother's Day since Simpson's father died in November.

"It's been a tough few months for my mom, my brothers and sisters," Simpson said as his voice began to crack. "This is a little beacon of light for my mom, to get this done on Mother's Day."

There was never any doubt.

Simpson navigated his way through a few mistakes, but not too much stress in his four-shot victory Sunday at the TPC Sawgrass. Staked to a seven-shot lead, no one got closer than four shots, even after Simpson made double bogey on the 18th hole when his only remaining task was to finish the hole. He closed with a 1-over 73 to end more than four years without winning.

Woods made another big run that revved up the crowd and revived hopes that he was close to winning. So did Jason Dufner, Jimmy Walker and Danny Lee. None could do enough to catch Simpson during a week of low scoring at the final Players Championship in May.

"It was harder than I thought," Simpson said. "There's so much noise in front of us with Tiger, and you wonder what everybody is doing."

The key moment for Simpson was hitting just short of the green on the par-5 11th to set up a two-putt birdie, and then finding the island green on the 17th when he had a six-shot lead.

"Once I got to 17 and the ball was on the green," he said, "internally I was celebrating."

Justin Thomas left the TPC Sawgrass as the No. 1 player in the world. He closed with a 66 to tie for 11th, more than enough to end Dustin Johnson's 15-month reign at the top of the ranking. Thomas is the 21st player to reach No. 1 since the ranking began in 1986, and the seventh American.

"I'm very proud to have gotten there, but it means more to me how long I can hold it," Thomas said in a text message.

Jimmy Walker closed with a bogey-free 67 and tied for second with Charl Schwartzel and Xander Schauffele, who also shot 67s. Walker, who struggled all of last year with Lyme disease, had his best finish since he won the 2016 PGA Championship.

AP
Webb Simpson, bottom, lines up a putt on the seventh green with caddie Paul Tesori during the final round of the The Players Championship golf tournament Sunday, May 13, 2018, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Woods made the cut on the number—helped by Thomas and Jordan Spieth making bogey on the 18th hole Friday—got back to the first page of the leaderboard with a 65 on Saturday and ran off six birdies through 12 holes in the final round. He was tied for second at one point, still four shots behind, but that was as close he got. Woods made a soft bogey on the 14th hole when he missed the green with a sand wedge, and was well short of the island green in making double bogey on No. 17.

He shot 69 and tied for 11th.

"I hit the ball better today than I did yesterday, and I obviously didn't end up with the score I needed to," Woods said.

The final edition of May was one for the record books. Simpson tied the course record with a 63 in the second round when he seized control—even with a double bogey from the water on the 17th—and he tied Greg Norman's 54-hole record from 1994 at 19-under 197. Simpson set a record for the largest margin through three rounds. Brooks Koepka became the eighth player with a 63 on Sunday, making an albatross 2 on the par-5 16th.

And there 1,754 birdies for the week, breaking by 136 the record from 1996.

But this ultimately was all about Simpson, who had missed the cut in four of his previous eight appearances at the TPC Sawgrass and had gone 107 starts on the PGA Tour since his most recent victory in Las Vegas toward the end of 2013.

Ohtani dazzles Twins, Angels walk off late in close win

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had four pitches that were all doing terrible things to the Minnesota Twins. The two-way sensation got five consecutive strikeouts at one point while he pitched into the seventh inning of another dominant performance.

Although the Los Angeles Angels couldn't do enough against the Twins' own rookie pitching star to get a win for Ohtani, they made sure to end their series with a celebration anyway.

After Ohtani racked up 11 strikeouts while yielding only three singles, Zack Cozart delivered a walk-off RBI single in the Angels' 2-1 victory Sunday.

Tigers 5, Mariners 4

In Detroit, Robinson Cano broke his right hand when hit by a pitch from left-hander Blaine Hardy in the third inning of the Seattle Mariners' loss to the Detroit Tigers.

The Seattle star, who has played in at least 150 in 11 straight years, said he might need surgery.

Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Mark Reynolds homered twice in his first game with Washington, helping the Nationals complete a four-game sweep.

Reynolds had his contract selected from Triple-A Syracuse on Saturday. He homered off Zack Godley in the sixth inning, then broke a 4-4 tie with a two-run shot off Archie Bradley (0-1) in the eighth after the Diamondbacks rallied with a three-run seventh.

Reds 5, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Eugenio Suarez and Joey Votto homered, and last-place Cincinnati swept a four-game series from the Dodgers for the first time since the Big Red Machine accomplished the feat in August 1976.

Luis Castillo (3-4) allowed three runs and four hits in six innings with eight strikeouts.

White Sox 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Matt Davidson hit a solo homer and a tie-breaking sacrifice fly off Kyle Hendricks (3-3)

Lucas Giolito (2-4) matched a career high with seven walks, tossed three wild pitches and hit a batter, but pitched two-hit ball for 5 2/3 innings in his first victory since April 26.

Yankees 6, Athletics 2

In New York, Giancarlo Stanton went 4 for 4 with a home run and three RBI in a game that started after a 2-hour, 45-minute rain delay.

Luis Severino (6-1) struck out seven in six innings as New York won for the 19th time in 22 games to remain tied with rival Boston for the best record in the majors at 28-12.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, J.D. Martinez hit his 10th homer, a two-run drive in the first off Joe Biagini (0-2), and a run-scoring single against John Axford in the fifth.

Mookie Betts had two hits, two steals and slid into foul territory down the right-field line to catch Richard Urena's sinking liner in the fourth.

Phillies 4, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, New York's Jacob deGrom was removed after a 45-pitch scoreless and hitless first inning as a precaution in his first start after a stint on the disabled list caused by a hyperextended right elbow.

Pinch-hitter Nick Williams hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Paul Seward (0-3) in the sixth.

Orioles 17, Rays 1

In Baltimore, Joey Rickard had his first big league multihomer game and drove in four runs following his recall from the minor leagues, and Baltimore scored its most runs since an 18-2 win over Oakland on Aug. 16, 2015. Tampa Bay gave up its most runs since a 17-11 defeat at Toronto on Aug. 7, 2010.

Indians 11, Royals 2

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber (6-2) gave up two unearned runs in seven innings, scattering eight hits.

Yan Gomes had four hits, including a three-run homer. Jose Ramirez also hit a three-run shot and Michael Brantley had a two-run homer as the Indians had 15 hits.

Braves 4, Marlins 3

In Miami, Sean Newcomb (4-1) allowed one hit in six innings and stretched his scoreless streak to 20 innings. Brian Anderson's double in the second was the lone hit off the left-hander.

Arodys Vizcaino gave up a three-run pinch-hit homer to Justin Bour with one out in the ninth, then retired the next two batters for his seventh save, completing a four-hitter.

Giants 5, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Gorkys Hernandez homered off Ivan Nova (2-3) to spark a five-run sixth inning, Nick Hundley added a three-run drive against Richard Rodriguez and San Francisco stopped a season-high six game-losing streak.

Astros 6, Rangers 1

In Houston, Dallas Keuchel (3-5) allowed three hits in seven shutout innings, struck out eight and walked one.

Evan Gattis and Carlos Correa homered for the second straight game

Matt Moore (1-5) allowed three runs and six hits in three innings.

Brewers 7, Rockies 3

In Denver, Freddy Peralta (1-0) took a no-bid into the sixth inning of his major league debut and set a Milwaukee rookie record with 13 strikeouts.

Peralta allowed one hit and two walks in 5 2/3 innings.

Padres 5, Cardinals 3

In San Diego, Clayton Richard (2-5) matched his career high with 10 strikeouts in eight innings for his first win since April 9.

Brad Hand got his 11th save, allowing Harrison Bader's leadoff homer in the ninth, loading the bases with one out on two walks and a hit batter, then striking out Carson Kelly and Kolten Wong. Bader also had an RBI triple.

Celtics take Game 1 of East finals, rout Cavaliers

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, fights for position against Boston Celtics forward Marcus Morris (13) during the third quarter of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference Finals, Sunday, May 13, 2018, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP)—The assignment for Boston Celtics forward Marcus Morris in his first start this postseason was easy to explain, but nearly impossible to execute.

His job: Guard LeBron James, and keep the four-time NBA MVP from running the Celtics out of their own gym in the Eastern Conference finals for the second year in a row.

"He's obviously the best player in the game," said Morris, who during the week boasted that he was up to the challenge and on Sunday explained why he wanted it.

"Because I'm a competitor. He's the best player, and I'm going to be able to tell my kids this one day."

Morris scored 21 points and added 10 rebounds while pestering James into a playoff-high seven turnovers—and a playoff-low 15 points—and the Celtics opened a 21-point, first-quarter lead to scorch Cleveland 108-83 in Game 1.

Jaylen Brown scored 23 points and Al Horford had 20 for Boston, which ran off 17 points in a row in the first and never allowed the Cavaliers within single digits again. The Celtics led by 28 when Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue pulled James for good with 7:09 left.

Game 2 is Tuesday night.

"I have zero level of concern at this stage," said James, who was 5 for 16 from the floor and missed all five 3-point attempts.

"I've been down before in the postseason, but for me there's never any level of concern— no matter how bad I played tonight, with seven turnovers, how inefficient I was shooting the ball," he said. "We have another opportunity to be better as a ball club coming in Tuesday night, and we'll see what happens."

Kevin Love had 17 points and eight rebounds, and James added nine assists and seven boards. The Cavaliers missed their first 14 3-point attempts of the game and shot just 32 percent in the first half.

By that time, Boston led 61-35—the biggest halftime playoff deficit in James' career.

"I think we're very alert to the fact that we'll get a heavyweight punch on Tuesday night," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "It's another great challenge, another great opportunity to experience something for this team."

With injured stars Gordon Hayward and Kyrie Irving on the bench in street clothes, the Celtics continued their stunning run this season with what may have been the most surprising turn of events yet. A year after dropping the first two games at home against Cleveland in a five-game East final, the Celtics pounced on James, and the favored Cavaliers were never really in it.

"The last couple of playoffs, and our meeting at the end of year, they blew us out of the water," Boston guard Marcus Smart said. "We've got a different team, just like they do, and a lot of younger guys. So for them to see that, and have that feeling like we did tonight, is huge."

The Celtics improved to 8-0 at home this postseason. They do not have to win on the road to reach the NBA Finals. Boston's 36-18 lead at the end of one quarter was the second-largest in a playoff game in franchise history.

The Celtics took the floor to a hype video that began with the broadcast of Hayward's injury in the first quarter of the first game, at Cleveland. A variety of commentators predicted the team's demise, including Hall of Famer Charles Barkley saying: "Their season's over."

As more players went down to injury—including Irving, who came over from the Cavaliers last summer but was done for the season in March—the prophesies grew even gloomier.

But there the Celtics were, back in the Eastern Conference finals against the Cavaliers for the second year in a row—with Hayward, Irving, Daniel Theis and Shane Larkin all injured and Stevens down to an eight-man rotation.

It was more than they needed.

Starting in place of Aron Baynes, Morris backed up his boast that he could cover James better than anyone except Kawhi Leonard. The Cavaliers star had seven of Cleveland's nine turnovers after accruing eight in the entire four-game, second-round sweep of the Raptors.

LeBron has 'zero' concern after Cavs' lopsided loss

BOSTON (AP)—LeBron James has made Boston's TD Garden his personal playground during the playoffs in recent years.

The Cleveland Cavaliers entered the Eastern Conference finals with a 9-3 record against the Celtics in games played at the Garden over the last four years, including six straight wins.

James' 979 postseason points against Boston were the most by any player against any opponent in the last 50 years. And his 21 playoff wins against the Celtics were also the most against them during that span.

But none of that mattered Sunday in Boston's dominating 108-83 win over Cleveland in Game 1 , in which James committed seven turnovers while being held to just 15 points, nine assists and seven rebounds.

It would be solid night for most NBA players, but was pedestrian by the super-human standard that LeBron has set for himself this postseason, at times single-handedly carrying the Cavs to victories.

But he was clear that his concern level down being 1-0 was "zero."

"I didn't go to college, so it's not March Madness," he said. "You see ways you can get better throughout the series. But I've been down 0-1, I've been down 0-2. I've been down before in the postseason.

"But for me, there's no level of concern no matter how bad I played tonight with seven turnovers, how inefficient I was shooting the ball. ... We have another opportunity to be better as a ballclub come Tuesday night and we'll see what happens."

James said the Celtics deserved credit for the defensive strategy they employed against him, which started with Marcus Morris challenging him from outset, limiting him to 2-of-6 shooting in the first quarter as Cleveland fell into a 36-18 hole.

"I think they had a great game plan in Game 1, and he was the start of it," James said. "He was my matchup and I think they did a great job of communicating throughout the whole game, knowing where I was and all of my teammates was. (Celtics coach) Brad (Stevens) did a great job."

Top-seed Houston hosts Warriors to start conference finals

HOUSTON (AP)—The Golden State Warriors are in the unfamiliar position of opening on the road as they prepare for Game 1 of the Western Conference finals with the top-seeded Rockets in Houston on Monday night in the series that many have been waiting for all season.

It's the first time the No. 2 Warriors have been in a playoff series without home-court advantage since 2014 when they lost to the Los Angeles Clippers 4-3 in the opening round.

For a team that has matched the Chicago Bulls' NBA record with 15 straight home playoff victories, the feeling is a bit unsettling.

"It's different," coach Steve Kerr said. "I think our guys, they are taking the challenge and they're embracing it. They feel like, `OK, we don't have home court for the first time,' but we seem to be at our best when we are threatened. That's been kind of the M.O. of this team. We're definitely threatened. We're on the road for Game 1, we've never felt that."

The Rockets, who earned the top seed for the first time in franchise history by winning 65 games in the regular season, are certainly happy to be opening at home, but aren't sure if it's that much of an advantage in this series.

"It's better to have it than not ... it's important but they've shown they can win away from home, we can win away from home," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"This might be a series where you lose one or two and then win four in a row -- either side. Because they're capable of it."

This will be the third playoff meeting between these two teams in the past four years, with the Warriors winning both previous meetings. They downed the Rockets 4-1 in 2015 in Houston's previous trip to the conference finals and ousted the team from the playoffs in the first round in 2016.

The defending champion Warriors are looking to reach the NBA Finals for the fourth straight year. For the Rockets, a win in this series would put them in the Finals for the first since 1995 when they won the second of their back-to-back titles.

D'Antoni was asked if he thinks the Warriors have seen a team as talented and dangerous as the Rockets are this season.

"I hope not," he said. "We did win 65. They're the ones always winning and getting home-court advantage so hopefully we gained a little ground."

However, he knows that his team is the perceived underdog in this series despite nabbing the top seed because of what the Warriors have done over the past few years.

"These guys are champions for a reason and they've shown on the big stage that they can perform at a very, very, very high level -- as good as anybody ever," he said. "And we haven't shown that yet and that's the doubt in most people's minds, until you show it they don't know ... so we've just got to beat them and show them we can do it."

4 teams survive opening round of Civic Center playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chowtime, Islander Rent A Car, 8th Division, and Pinatubo all made the grade in the first playoff round of the 2018 Civic Center Inter-color Basketball League held over the weekend at the Civic Center court.

Islander Rent A Car routed RNV last Sunday, 61-36, to complete the first four quarterfinalists in the 16-team field.

Jack Aranda powered Islander Rent A Car past RNV in the opening round of the playoffs after scoring 19 points. Sean Rabasto and Paulo Rafols also finished in twin digits for Islander with the former adding 13 points—9 of them came from the 3-point area—and the latter contributing 10. Ariel Baul had 16 points on a losing effort for RNV.

Aranda and company topped Pool A at the end of the regular season and after dispatching RNV —the last placer in Pool B—next up for the favored team at the upper half of the draw is the winner of the No.2 Camor and No. 7 Civic Master tiff, which will be played this weekend.

In the other quarterfinal pairing, it will be Chowtime versus 8th Division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

8th Division's Rodney Catalla, left, is pressured by an Islander Rent A Car defender during a regular season game in the Civic Center caging last month. Both teams survived the first round of the playoffs last weekend to make it to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Chowtime booked a quarterfinal ticket after outclassing No. 5 Budotz last Sunday, 72-61, while 8th Division made it to the next round earlier following an 81-59 domination of the Thunder last Saturday.

Ramsa Tenepere knocked down three triples to topscore for Chowtime, as he finished with 14 points. Jonathan Broncano chipped in 10, while Jawm Joyner and Mark Asuhan combined for 17 more points for the winning squad.

Lerio Pagarao paced Budotz with his 24 points, but was held to 4 markers in the final canto.

In last Saturday's first playoff game, 8th Division played a balance offense to ease past the Thunder.

Four players scored in twin digits for 8th Division with Alex Lauron leading the way with his 17 markers. Joseph Torres tallied 15, while Maverick Itibus and Bart Demapan logged 14 and 10, respectively.

Behind after the first quarter, 13-15, 8th Division got its rhythm in the second, exploding for 27 markers against only 11 from the Thunder to grab the driver's seat. 8th Division never relinquished the big lead after that, thanks to its multiple options on offense.

In other results last Saturday, Pinatubo defeated Batang, 58-51, to set u up a quarterfinal showdown with the winner between the Geotesting vs I-Secure duel.

Jerome Norita and Ed Pangelinan teamed up in bringing Pinatubo to the quarterfinals after delivering 18 and 15 points, respectively. They combined for 12 point in the fourth quarter to outgun the entire Batang crew.

CNMI men's indoor volleyball team named

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association has released the roster for the CNMI men's indoor volleyball team that will be competing in the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap in July.

Named on the national squad are Ryan R. Camacho, Mychal K. Omar, Alfredo Q. Guevarra, Jr., Jerrett C. Rosario, Danilo G. Borlain, Nakashima "Billy" Nakashima, Don Marshall D. Cabrera, John J. Neikaifes, John Michael O. Costales, Logan J. Mister, Nick Gross, Tahj O. Salas, and Eric A. Kiser. All will be making their first Micro Games appearance in indoor volleyball. The players were selected from the 21 athletes that attended the two-day open tryouts coordinated by Saipan Volleyball Club last April 14 and 15 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and based on their attendance at Saipan Volleyball Club weekly training sessions from April 16 to May 5.

NMIVA expects this young team will make a good showing in the Micro Games, which will be held at the Yap Sports Complex. Although the entire squad will be making their first appearance in the Micro Games, the core of the group has participated in numerous indoor tournaments in Saipan and trained with Saipan Volleyball Club in an open gym format twice a week, from 2015 to 2017.

"This combination of athletes stands out due to their fundamental ability to work together, their positive attitude towards each other as athletes, and their motivation to train," said Saipan Volleyball Club coach Shawn Davis.

Under the guidance of Davis and Omar and with the input of Gross, the team established a good strength conditioning routine in addition to three times a week skills training. Reports about their training are provided to NMIVA and NMSA on monthly basis.

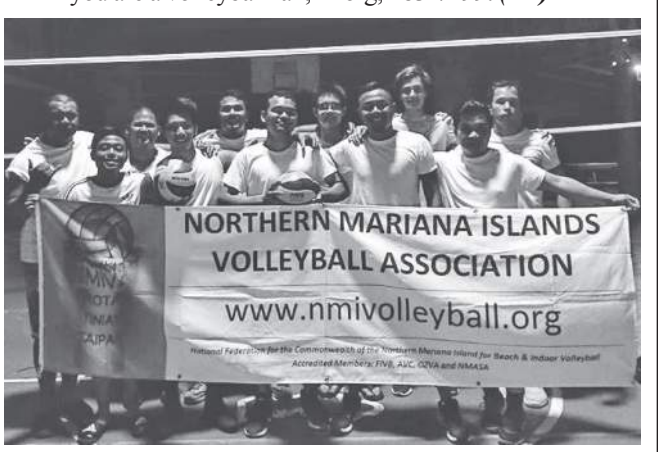
"NMIVA is grateful to Saipan Volleyball Club for stepping up and taking the lead in organizing the tryouts, training and fundraising efforts for these athletes to be able to compete in this summer's Micro Games," NMIVA president Laurie Peterka said.

Athletes are fundraising to cover the costs of airfare, accommodations and uniforms. As part of their fundraising efforts last May 11, the CNMI men's indoor volleyball team collaborated with Marianas Health Group at the Marianas March Against Cancer and held a car wash at Shell Puerto Rico. A huge shoutout to Shell for providing the space for the event. Last April 21, athletes provided community support while fundraising by cleaning up 340 pounds of trash at Agingan Point.

"If you are a volleyball fan, NMIVA is asking for your support to help our team raise the $15,000 needed to attend the games," Peterka added.

Saipan Volleyball Club provided a proposal to NMIVA in early April 2018, offering to take the lead on organizing tryouts, team training, and fundraising to be able to help CNMI volleyball players get the opportunity to play in Yap. NMIVA and Saipan Volleyball Club agreed to a memorandum of understanding where administrative activities would be shared by both parties to make it possible to send athletes to the Games. Saipan Volleyball Club would be responsible for coaching and training, while NMIVA is the fiduciary agent for all fundraising activities and donations. All expenses are also being managed by NMIVA. Official requests for assistance and support have been provided to all athletes to help with their fundraising efforts.

For more information about how you can help, email or call Davis at shawnd62@hotmail.com, 483- 9505 or Laurie Peterka at president@nmivolleyball.org, 483-7499. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI men's indoor volleyball team pose for a photo after their selection was announced last week.

YOUNG

From Page 28

lan Kanoa Bears and will be joined by teammates Angel Palacios, cousin Henry Lizama Jr., and brother Kiku Lizama on the Yap-bound national squad.

Veteran Roy Celis will spearhead the CNMI bullpen that is also composed of pitching leaders Kiku Lizama, Nathan Kapileo, Frankie Lieto, Joe Guerrero, A.J. Lizama, and Peter Tenorio. Anthony Tenorio, Pat Alepuyo, Lorenzo Sebaklim, Ben Jones Jr., Shane Yamada, Brian Camacho, Virgil Secharmidal, Franko Flores, Byron Kaipat, Tyrone Omar, Nokki Saralu, and Jonah Flores are the other members of the team.

Celis, Kaipat, Omar, Alepuyo, Camacho, and Jones were part of the CNMI crew that won the silver medal in the 2014 Micro Games in Pohnpei. They lost the gold against Guam, the same team they beat in the 2006 Micro Games finals held on Saipan. The CNMI bowed to Palau in the 2010 edition of the quadrennial meet and is hoping to end its back-to-back bridesmaid finishes this time

Patrick Tenorio will be managing the national team, while veteran Manny Sablan, one of the catchers in the 2006 Micro Games gold medal-winning squad, and Mike Cruz are the coach and assistant, respectively.

This year's Micro Games will run from July 15 to 27. Baseball will be played at the Yap Sports Complex's field from July 16 to 27.

MCS

From Page 28

a wide serve, awarding a point to its opponent.

However, the Knights quickly retaliated with Jayden Tenorio converting off his spike to spark a short 6-1 scoring run, which the MCS senior also ended with a block off A.J. Hudkins' kill. Hudkins then made up for a botched attempt when he went for another kill and this time, it landed on an empty spot on the Knights side.

Still, the Knights led by a big margin, 23-10, and Yun moved their squad closer to victory in the opening set when he went for a thunderous spike, which SIS defenders failed to contain. Mt. Carmel then closed out the first set when Kiser served and the Geckos failed to hold after three touches.

With SIS in danger of losing its title bid anew, the top-ranked squad played better in the second set, standing toe-to-toe with the Mt. Carmel in the opening stages of that period and behind by only one, 10-11, after scoring two straight points off a drop at the frontline and the Knights' wayward spike.

However, Mt. Carmel prevailed in the next exchange, 12-7, with the lanky Yu teaming up with Tenorio and Kiser in handing the Knights the points and SIS committing costly turnovers. Yu scored the last point for the Knights for their 23-18 lead and Mt. Carmel went on to finish off SIS and secure the division title after the Geckos' back-to-back errors. The first one came from Sanchez, who attempted to toss the ball, but the leather slipped away from his hands and dropped on the floor. The second and final one that sealed the doom for SIS was from Hyun Jun Chung, who went for a soft tap, but was deflected by the net.

It was a sorry loss for SIS, as it earlier bowed to Grace Christian Academy in the girls high school finale.

On the other hand, the win against the Geckos was sweet revenge for the Knights, who lost to SIS in the title game in the 2015-2016 season. The Knights also had a runner-up finish last year as they were stunned by Marianas Baptist Academy in the finals.

HERAS

From Page 28

under the ITF Juniors Circuit. It will award 30, 18, 9, and 5 ranking points to the singles champion, runner-up, semifinalists, and quarterfinalists, respectively.

A similar ranking tournament will be held on Saipan later this month with Heras and several other Commonwealth junior players expected to see action in the Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

As of yesterday, Heras, Carol Lee, Tania Tan, Malika Miyawaki, and Maria Gregoire are on the acceptance list. Participants roster won't be finalized until a few days before the tournament kicks off. The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-hosted event will run from May 22 to 27 and some players competing in Guam will also join the Grade 5 tournament here.

In the boys division, Robbie Schorr leads the CNMI players on the acceptance list, which also includes Ken Song, Sean Lee, Jim Min Woo, and Seung Jin Paik.

Meanwhile, Carol Lee completed her tournament in Africa last weekend. She won her opening match in the doubles event in the Mediterranée Avenir held in Morocco, teaming up with Aleksandra Julia Jelen of Poland in downing Denmark's Olivia Gram and Morocco's Hindi Semlali, 6-3, 6-3. Lee and Jelen then lost to No. 1 seed Kamilia Rakhimova of Russia and Slovakia's Lenka Stara in the Round of 16, 3-6, 6-3, 3-10.

2018 PIC Tennis Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr goes for a backhand return to Sean Lee during their boys U16 singles game in the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships held early this month at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Sean Lee hits a baseline return to Robbie Schorr.

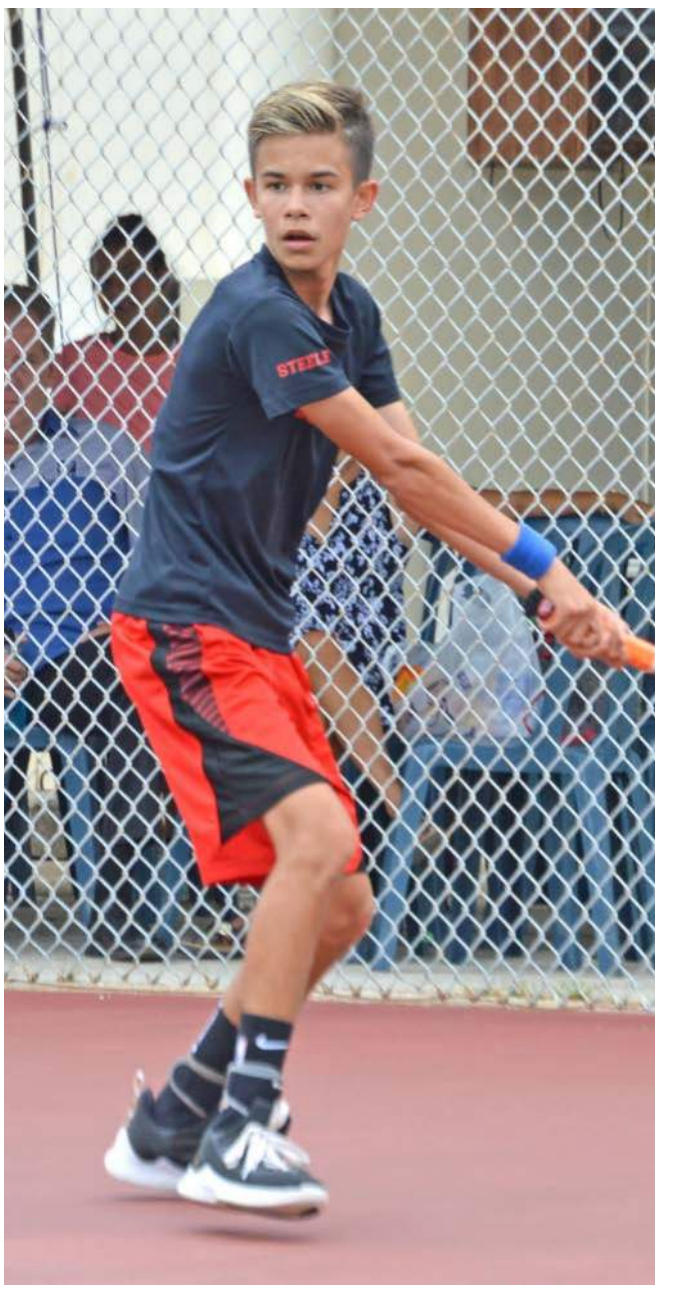
Seung Jin Paik reacts after a return to Richard Steele.

A boys U12 singles player serves to his opponent.

Yejin Son rushes down for a return to Boomee Park during their girls U12 singles game.

Boomee Park eyes her target.

A boys U12 singles player makes a return.



Richard Steele is all set for a backhand return to Seung Jin Paik during their boys U14 singles game.

Simpson spoils Woods' comeback party

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celtics take Game 1 of East finals, rout Cavaliers

PAGE 25

MCS sweeps SIS in v-ball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Third time's the charm for Mt. Carmel School, as it finally won a championship after beating Saipan International School in the boys high school finale of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isabel Heras, seen here competing in a local tournament last year, is in Guam and won her opening singles match in the 2018 Chuck E Cheese's Guam ITF Junior Championships yesterday at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa courts.

Heras advances in ITF Juniors tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Isabel Heras is in the second round of the 2018 Chuck E Cheese's Guam ITF Junior Championships after winning her debut in singles play yesterday at the Hilton Guam Resort and Spa courts.

Heras was pitted against Japan's Chiharu Kobayashi and needed only two sets to dispatch her foe and move into the Round of 16 of the 25-player field. The NCAA Division II-bound Heras labored through a 7-6 (2) win over Kobayashi in the first set and went on to complete the sweep after prevailing in the second, 6-4.

The Marianas High School student, who signed up to play for Dixie State University last month, is at the top half of the draw and will face another Japanese player in the second round. Heras will be up against No. 7 seed Mua Shigeta, who made it to the second round following a 6-3, 6-3 victory over compatriot Momo Suzuki. If Heras upsets Shigeta today, the CNMI bet is headed for a possible quarterfinal collision with the No. 1 seed Ai Yamaguchi of Japan. Yamaguchi drew a bye in the opening round and is schedule to have her first match today against Japan's Risa Ohno, who marched into the Round of 16 after eliminating the Philippines' Anna Laura De Myer, 6-2, 6-0.

The ongoing tournament in Guam is a Grade 5 event

See HERAS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun, right, goes up for a spike, while Saipan International School's A.J. Hudkins attempts a block during the second set of their title game in the boys high school finale of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Knights, who settled for runner-up honors in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seasons, made sure the title won't slip away from their hands this year as they took only two sets to down the Geckos in the championship game, 25-10, 25-18.

The Francis San Nicolas-coached Mt. Carmel eased its way to victory in the opening set, as the Knights won the battle on the net, drew several points from Seok Jun Yun's powerful serves and booming spikes, and capitalized on SIS' errors.

The Knights opened a 17-7 lead in the first set after Eric Kiser blocked a spike from the Geckos. With her team falling behind, SIS coach Mili Saiki called timeout and that somehow stopped the bleeding for the Geckos, as Mt. Carmel had

See MCS on Page 26

Young, but battle-tested NMI baseball team

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will be pinning its hopes on a young but battle-tested squad when it competes in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

Twenty-one players made it to the CNMI National Baseball Team with most of the members selected in contention in the individual statistics race in the ongoing 2018 Saipan Baseball League. Some of them also either played under SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi in the Big League division of the Saipan Little League or in previous national squads and also suited up for CNMI All-Stars teams in the Little League program.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Brian Camacho, seen here waiting for a pitch from Guam during the title game in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic, will suit up for the CNMI anew, as he will join the Yap-bound national team that will compete in the 2018 Micronesian Games.

Five of the Top 10 players in the batting leaderboard in the 2018 SBL season are on the CNMI roster, led by leader A.J. Lizama. In last month's statistics, Lizama had a batting average of .568 and drove in a league-best 15 runs aside from hitting two homers.

Lizama plays for the Cha-

See YOUNG on Page 26